

HOW TO REDUCE LOSSES AMONG CHICKS BY PREVENTING DISEASE

Critical Period Is During the First Two or Three Weeks

When and What to Feed Are the Most Important Considerations

By A. C. SMITH
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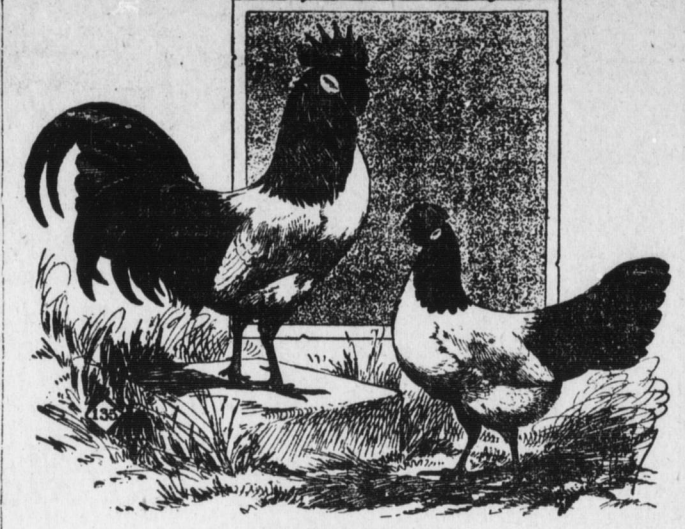
The subject of heavy losses among chicks has been the great problem for years among poultry raisers. It has been deeply investigated, with the result that experts now know pretty well what to do to insure the raising of a large percentage of the young.

What and when to feed the young seems to have been proven to be the most important problem to solve. Of course, there are other causes of disease among chicks, such as exposure to cold, bad ventilation, lack of exercise at the proper age, but if the feeding problem is solved the poultryman can figure he has won a big battle.

The great loss of chick life has been studied long and diligently, and because the loss was not prevented, the student came to the conclusion that there must be some mysterious reason for these big losses, which have sound the death-knell of many large undertakings of this character.

No one in these days disputes the germ theory of disease, but germs or no germs, chicks that hatch strong and normally should be able to be raised if properly fed and cared for. Eight or nine-tenths of the losses can be attributed to improper care or improper feeding.

To avoid the technical side of the case and still deal with facts as they are, most of the losses by disease occur while the chick is still young, before it becomes three weeks old perhaps we might say two weeks or ten days old. Head lice kill many, it is true, but bowie trouble of one form or another is responsible for the death of a great majority. Why should they



LAKENVELDERS
By Louis Paul Graham

This is one of the old breeds of Holland, from whence it was introduced to England, Germany and America. The first specimens of the variety made their appearance in America only about a dozen years ago, although the breed has been known for upwards of eighty years in Holland. It is thought to be of Campine origin and shows similarity to the latter variety in shape, head and in the leg color, which is slaty blue.

Like all the small, lighter bodied fowls, the Lakenvelder is a layer. It produces a large number of eggs, each year, that are described as being of porcelain whiteness and of fair size.

It is not in any sense a table fowl, though, like all the lighter bodied fowls such as Leghorns, Anconas, Campines, etc., it is excellent for the production of "squab broilers" to be sold at from 3/4 to one pound weight. This is due to the quick growth of the chicks during that period (about seven weeks). After that the chicks grow

lanky and feather out and are not again in good table condition until they reach a wild disposition. They are of a wild disposition. They do better on free range than in limited quarters. In fact it is difficult to keep them successfully in small yards.

In size and shape they resemble our own well-known White Leghorn, but in coloration are strikingly different from any other known variety of poultry.

In both sexes the body color is white and the neck, tail and saddle hackles are jet black. This coloring is not easily attainable and it is a common breeding problem with the fancier to produce a chick with good jet black feathers in their requisite sections and at the same time keep this black strictly confined to those certain parts.

have bowel trouble? There may be various reasons, but the actual facts are that most all troubles of this nature are due to either improper care or improper feeding. By the latter we include improper housing, insufficient heat and various other items too numerous to mention.

As to Brooder Chicks. As a rule, a greater proportion of brooder than hen-raised chicks are lost. This is through bowel troubles, due to the fact that the operator is afraid of over-heating the chicks. There is little danger of this if the brooder is properly constructed, because, if too warm, chicks will retreat just a sufficient distance from the brooder to be comfortable. On the other hand, if the hover is not sufficiently warm, the chicks have nowhere to go for heat, and soon chill. This chill affects the digestive organs and bowel trouble results.

Attention to Feeding. It is, of course, absolutely necessary that all the chicks of the tender age should be the sweetest and most wholesome, but that is not all. Some investigators have found that the first feed should be withheld for twenty-four hours after hatching; another has decreed that thirty-six hours is the proper time, while another goes to the extreme of directing that the first feed should be given seventy-two hours

after hatching. For the average normal chick it is probable that thirty-six hours is the right time for the first feed. If allowed to go much longer than that they seem to weaken and become discontented, as may be fairly inferred from their actions. Weaker chicks require a longer time.

What to Feed. The question of what to feed is important to see that sweet and wholesome food is provided, but it is equally important to see that these are put into the proper form; that is we must not consider alone the kind of food particle, but also the size and consistency of that particle. As for instance, the size of the particle of the feed should be such that it can be easily and thoroughly digested. If the feed is too hard, it is too large. Manifestly chicks of tender age cannot digest either too large or too tough or too hard kernels.

On the other hand, if the particles are too fine the food becomes too pasty, and collects in a mass or ball as is often the case with the young of the ordinary size. The number of hard grain feeds may be reduced gradually from five to three.

At ten days or two weeks of age it is advisable to feed a dry mash. The base of this is wheat bran, but the ingredients and proportions may vary considerably without affecting the health and growth. Equal parts of wheat and bran, corn meal and ground oats which have been passed through a fine sieve to remove the hulls make a mash that is about as good as those of more complicated composition. During this age, the system demands large amounts of protein and ash. To provide these constituents add to this mash five per cent. of beef scraps that have been well and thoroughly prepared, and are sweet, and from ten to fifteen per cent. of the bone meal.

The third stage, or what might be termed the "range age," may be said to exist after the chicks are from six or eight weeks old until maturity. Nearly all dangers of losses by disease having now passed, all sorts of economies, both in foods and labor, should be practiced, such as allowing free range and hopper feeding, etc.

Placing the House. Place the house or coop so that it receives the earliest morning rays of the sun. Provide shade, but let the chicks choose it. Do not place the house in the shade. The chicks will choose the sunnier side if they do not. It has been tried season after season.

The essential features of successful chicken raising often overlooked are: to keep them warm, to protect them from dampness, to destroy lice of all kinds by rational methods, to provide grit and an even balance of the different kinds of food necessary, viz., grains, greens, grit and mineral matter. Seventy-five to ninety per cent. of all normal chicks hatched should be raised to maturity unless destroyed by some natural enemy.

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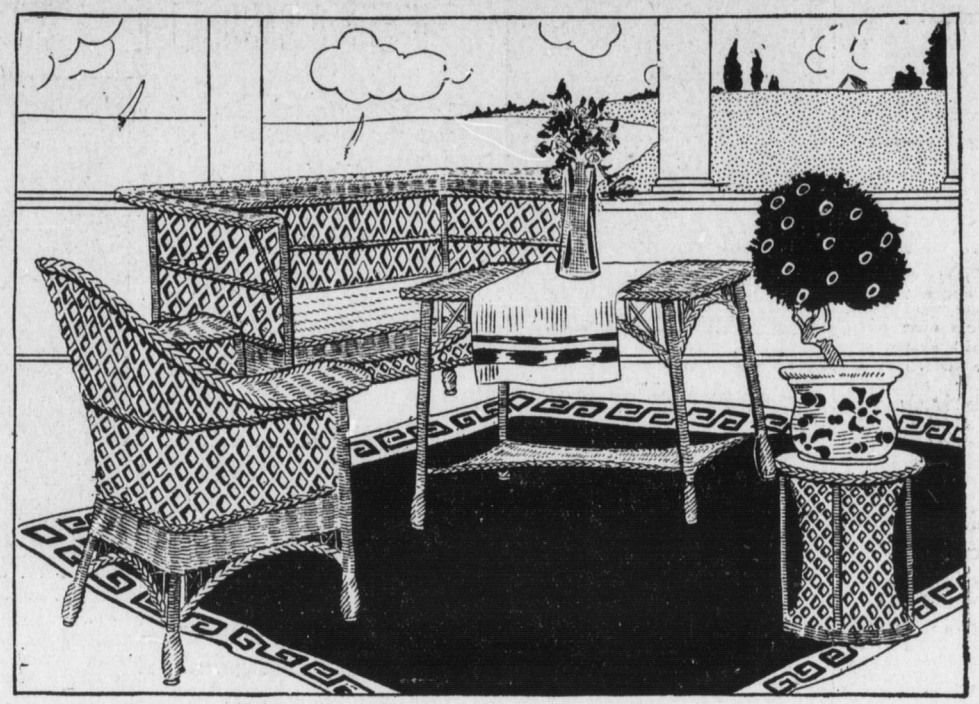
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ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED
Special to The Telegraph
Marietta, Pa., March 27.—Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Tull announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Verna Pauline, to Warren V. Zellers, of Lancaster



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DEATH OF MRS. JACOB NISSLEY

Special to The Telegraph
Hershey, Pa., March 27.—Mrs. Mary, wife of Jacob Nissley died at her home, Spring Creek avenue, yesterday after a long illness. She was the daughter of Jacob Landis and was born in Derry township 69 years ago. She is survived by three sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Elizabeth Yingst, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Dr. H. E. Maulfair, of Lebanon; Mrs. Adam Schaeffer, of Lebanon; A. L. Landis, of Union Deposit, and F. T. Landis, of Womelsdorf. Besides her husband, she is survived by four daughters and one son, Mrs. Violet Freed, of Annville; Miss Catherine Nissley, of Hershey; Mrs. H. F. Imbody, of Hershey; Mrs. L. Moyer Hershey, of Shamokin, and Dr. M. L. Nissley, of Hummelstown. The funeral will take place on Tuesday afternoon. The Rev. N. L. Linebaugh of the First United Brethren Church, of which Mrs. Nissley was one of the oldest members, will officiate.

LITTLE GIRL'S BIRTHDAY

Special to The Telegraph
Enola, Pa., March 27.—Mrs. Louis Ensor, of South Enola, gave a birthday surprise party in honor of her daughter June's fifth birthday on Thursday afternoon. The home was beautifully decorated for the occasion and refreshments were served to Miss Lulu Maguire, Miss Margaret Curling, Miss Therna Bender, Miss Evelyn Bender, Miss Elsie Campbell, Miss Mildred Lutz, Miss Jeanette Lyons, Miss June Ensor, Russel Melhart and Joseph Ensor.

PASTOR'S FAREWELL

Special to The Telegraph
Williamstown, Pa., March 27.—The Rev. and Mrs. J. Willet Boyer were tendered a farewell reception at the Evangelical parsonage Tuesday evening. The Rev. Mr. Boyer left yesterday for his new charge at Palmerton.

THIRTY IN GRADUATING CLASS

Waynesboro, Pa., March 27.—There will be thirty members of the graduating class of the Waynesboro high school this year.

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BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BOY
By Associated Press
Williamstown, Pa., March 27.—On the evening of March 25, at their home in East Broad street, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowerman entertained a number of tots in honor of their son, Howard's seventh birthday. Many gifts were presented.

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