

# **THE PARASITIC DISEASES OF POULTRY**

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The Parasitic Diseases of Poultry by Fred. V. Theobald

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**FRED. V. THEOBALD**

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POULTRY.

BY  
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'AN ACCOUNT OF BRITISH FLIES' AND 'INSECT LIFE.'

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR.

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## PREFACE.

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THE fact that Poultry-breeding is increasing to such an extent in England, and the numerous enquiries the Author receives regarding the many parasitic diseases to which Poultry are subject, has influenced him in issuing this small Manual relating to the parasitic infestation of Fowls and the various methods of coping with such diseases. The worst parasitic diseases in Fowls are due to animal parasites, such, for instance, as the ' Gapes ' and Diphtheritic Roup; a few minor complaints are, however, due to Vegetable Parasites—minute fungi. In many cases the knowledge of the life-history of these enemies helps us to be able to battle with them more successfully. One of the objects of this Manual is to place before Poultry-keepers all the changes through which these pests go, with reference particularly to those points in their life-history that are of some economic importance. My best thanks are due to the many

Poultry-keepers who have sent me diseased birds to investigate and experiment with. For these and all other Poultry-breeders and Fanciers this book is written, with the hope that the too persistent loss from parasitic infestation may be considerably lessened.

Wye Court, Wye, Kent.  
October 1896.

## INTRODUCTION.

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### PARASITES AND PARASITISM.

THAT many, if not most, animals have upon and within them other and smaller animals and fungi—parasites or ‘guests,’ as they are generally called—is now a well-established fact. Regarding these ‘guests,’ always unbidden, and their effects upon their ‘hosts,’ there is considerable universal ignorance that Science is doing much to obliterate. The scientist, also, is sometimes in the dark concerning these parasitic forms; but rapid strides have been made in Parasitology during recent years. Many complicated life-histories of parasitic forms have now been unravelled, yet a vast field of research and careful experiment is still open. At one time parasites were thought to be part and parcel of the host upon which they lived. This absurd notion has long since been dispelled; yet it is still most difficult to make those who are not of a scientific