

in a great measure overcome by gathering the eggs three or four times during the same period).

The hatching season having arrived and having your hens in laying condition, the eggs should be turned half over every second day, thereby preventing the germ and yolk sticking to the shell, which makes the egg of no use, as the germ must be loose and move when tested, or will not hatch a healthy chick.

The nests should be prepared near the ground to enable the eggs to procure sufficient moisture naturally. The hen, when willing to remain on the nest, should be protected from intruders, being shut completely from the intrusion of the other hens; it being an acknowledged fact that the sitting hen's nest is the most inviting nest for other hens to lay their eggs in. If possible, sitting hens should be kept separate, and when convenient, in a building by themselves, where they will be more tractable and much easier handled. The hen should be given as many eggs as she can successfully cover, but with hens of ordinary size thirteen eggs will be found as many as they can cover completely. Do not expect too much from your hens, assist them all you can, therefore do not give them too much to do (too many eggs to cover) her peculiar methods of turning the eggs are not always to be relied upon as being thorough; therefore very liable to leave some unturned when she considers her duty performed. When your hens have been setting on eggs one week, test them, or if not an expert at testing the eggs for fertility allow her to have charge of them, say ten days, when there will be no mistaking the infertile egg for the fertile one.

Remove all infertile or clear eggs from under the hen and put them carefully away where they will not freeze as they will be useful to you later on. If hatching for market only a good plan would be to set them in pairs, carefully dating your settings so that when testing for infertile and doubtful eggs after removing them from both nests you may only have enough fertile eggs remaining for one hen to cover; then have another setting ready to give to the remaining hen to begin anew. This method is, I consider, better than allowing both hens to remain setting on a few eggs and after hatching, then giving the chicks to one hen to hover and raise, from the fact that one of your hens has lost two weeks sitting—again, this matter of testing should not be run over in a hurried manner. The

egg which only shows a small or faint germ may be left in the nest for another week when another test will prove conclusively whether its germ has grown sufficiently to hatch at the end of the following week. If not, remove at once and destroy, for the danger is too great that your hen may move the well developed germs to the outside, thereby possibly chilling and destroying your perfect germs whilst the weak and imperfect germ will not be sufficiently benefitted to cause it to hatch, which only increases your loss.

During the period of hatching, feed your hens regularly when off their nests all they will eat of whole corn; this food having the greatest amount of heat for which the hen must be provided in order that she may be able to transmit a sufficient amount of heat required by the egg germ. Also see that you have a good dust bath for them, also plenty of grit placed where they can help themselves. Do not allow them to come off their nests only at regular hours and as soon as they have eaten and dusted themselves place them back on their nests as gently as possible.

Your chicks having arrived do not be too kind to them by feeding them the first day; about noon of the second day is quite soon enough, as Nature has so provided them by the absorption of the yolk of the egg just previous to the hatching that they do not require any food for the time stated.

Now, take your infertile eggs you tested out from the first week's hatching, boil them as hard as possible, then chop them fine enough for your little chicks and then mix stale bread crumbs with them so that they will be quite crumbly and feed your chicks.

Do not overfeed them; it is better to feed them less and often than to give too much, as you are apt to overtax their digestive organs and bring on bowel trouble. Continue this feed for the first week, giving them a little oat meal as a variety and this along with the brooding of your hen should make them lively and strong, and you will be surprised at their growth. Baked corn bread or coarse Johnny cake made of corn chop (not corn meal) is greatly relished by them and is good for the heat which their bodies require. You may now give them whole wheat, small preferred, also cracked corn, by varying the formula the writer has been fairly successful in raising them without even the aid of the hen. This, of course, requires the assistance of a brooder house, whose heat under the hover should