

Natural Hatching and Artificial Brooding

J. H. Callander, Peterborough Co., Ont.

The early chicken is one of the things desired by the poultryman. The problem of getting them hatched and to keep them growing till warm spring weather comes is a source of endless study. The plan that I followed with by last pen of pure-bred fowls proved a most gratifying success. It was not the result of any special line of study. I was on the other hand forced to adopt it or lose a season's benefit from an expensive pen of imported birds. I herewith give it for the benefit of readers of Farm and Dairy.

My fowl house was in a corner of a barn with a big door opening to the south. The roosting pen was airy but not draughty, the door being closed at night. First thing every morning, storm or shine, all doors were thrown open. Under these conditions, with the run of a dry barn floor and a snow covered yard outside, sheltered by the house and high board fences from all winds, and fed on a well balanced ration including plenty of cut bone, the pullets began laying shortly after their arrival from the States. They kept it up at a record making rate till I became alarmed at them thought that they would all be broody when I wanted eggs in March.

HATCHING WITH "CLUCKERS"

With this in mind the neighborhood was scoured for "cluckers." Three or four were secured that stood the move, and settled down to incubate from nine to 11 eggs each. I set them in a stall that had been partitioned off for their exclusive use. While the hatching was going on, preparations were made to care for the chicks that were expected. These duly arrived. In the meantime I ordered a 120 chick brooder for out-doors. Next I got a pino box, laid it on its back and re-

moved the slanting part of the cover and replaced it with a glass sash.

SETTING TWO HENS AT ONCE

Two hens being set at the same time, the chicks were taken from one and given to the other, the one hen being reset, and the other put in the pino case with all the chicks. The hen brooded the flock closely for several days. They were then strong and lively and were put in the brooder out doors. As fast as a hatch arrived, they were handled in this way, and the way they thrived was a surprise and delight to me. The hatching was all got over in a short time and as soon as the number of chicks were out that were wanted, no more eggs were set. In this way the entire flock of nearly 100 chicks were hatched inside a period of six weeks, and were thus of a very uniform age, a fact that meant a great deal when they were half grown. The big ravenous crowd would have left a small chance for the little fellows to get a living amongst them.

FEEDING THE CHICKS

The chicks had food and water constantly before them from the day they were hatched till they were full grown. The hopper and fountain methods of feeding were followed. Meat meal, (dry), granulated charcoal, and grit, were also kept within reach, and were made good use of by the birds.

This was my first experience in hatching with hens, and raising the brood with a brooder. To me it was the most successful season I had ever had, except when engaged in the business on a larger scale. The birds were as early as could be desired, and my yard in May and June, with a uniform flock of pure bred Columbian Wyandottes was a sight that attracted the attention of passers by whether interested in poultry or not.

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The Raising of Geese

W. D. Card, Northumberland Co., Ont.

Geese are very profitable to raise as they require but very little attention and very little feed. This is especially true of the large breeds of geese. I have been raising geese for 14 years. I started with the Brown China Geese, afterwards trying the white Toulouse variety with which I secured much better results. Not being quite satisfied with these, I purchased a



A First Prize Embden

At the recent Peterboro Poultry Show. Owned by W. D. Card, of Northumberland Co., Ont. Read his article in this column on Raising Geese.

trio of the Large Embden. These latter have proved the most profitable of any, as they are very quiet, lay more eggs and produce more feathers than other varieties.

During the breeding season, I mate two ganders with six geese and have received good luck in getting hatchable eggs. Each old goose will lay from 25 to 30 eggs. The young geese will lay from 20 to 25 each. The first

laid eggs I set under hens, giving five eggs to each hen. The eggs must be turned twice a week. During the third and fourth week, I sprinkle them with water. I have always secured good luck in hatching with hens when following out this practice. After they are hatched I put them in small coops where there is plenty of good green grass. I make a small run for each hen by means of three boards in which paddock the goslings are kept until they are a few days old. This precaution is necessary as the goslings do not understand the cluck of the hen as well as they do the call of the old goose.

I feed the goslings bread crumbs and rolled oats for about four days, after which all they require is plenty of grass. They prefer red clover and will grow faster if provided with it. If a creek is not convenient for them, provide plenty of water in a long shallow trough. They will do just as well with this latter.

Most of my geese are sold for brooding purposes. They bring from \$4 to \$5 a pair. I pick out the poorest ones and sell them at Christmas time for from \$1.50 to \$1.75 each, after they are picked and drawn. The young geese will average about 18 lbs. in weight while the old geese will average from 20 to 24 lbs. each. To some this may appear large, but my geese will weigh that about three weeks before I want to kill them. I commence to feed with mixed grains, namely peas, corn, barley, and buck-wheat. When shut up they fatten very fast and take less feed than if allowed to run at large.

Raising Chickens

Jorden Main, Wentworth Co., Ont.

From my own experience in the poultry business, I am of the opinion that where a person is raising less than 200 chickens, it can be done successfully by means of natural incubation.

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TESTIMONIAL

MESSRS. WM. COOPER & NEPHEWS,
506-507 Manning Chambers, Toronto.

Dear Sirs,

It affords me great pleasure to testify to the merits of your **Cooper's Fluid** as a disinfectant for poultry runs and pens. For some time I was troubled with nits and lice amongst my hens, and in consequence they were off laying considerably. I was at a loss to know how to remedy this till I tried your fluid, and I was delighted with the results. After a couple of sprayings my hen house, nests, boxes, and the whole pens were absolutely clear of vermin of every kind, and the birds at once showed better condition and laying capacity.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) W. H. DURHAM.

ISLINGTON, ONTARIO,
December 1, 1908.

ON SALE AT DRUG STORES AND SEED STORES

WRITE FOR OUR BOOKLET A

WILLIAM COOPER & NEPHEWS, TORONTO, ONT.

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