

birds on exhibition had been over-shown so could not be considered in good shape. In a great many classes there were to be seen very pure specimens in the different varieties notably Leghorns, Langshans, Brahmas, Houdans, Game and Rocks. The next exhibition will be held in the town of Goderich, when we may expect to see a larger entry and probably a more suitable building in which to hold the show. I think the Poultry Association of Huron may be congratulated on the very successful show, it being the first exhibition held under the auspices of this association. This association has among its officers and members some of the most enterprising men of the county who have and are still taking a great interest in the improvement of thoroughbred stock. Mr. Wilson, one of its members, is known as having one of the largest egg packing establishments in the Province, and feels greatly interested in the poultry industry. I had a very interesting conversation with Mr. Wilson and his son after I finished judging along the line of egg production and the variety of eggs most suitable for packing. He unhesitatingly claims that the dark shelled eggs will keep longer than will the white eggs. He says in condling he finds ten per cent or more of white eggs spoiled than dark colored eggs if assorted. He says the large white egg is not nearly as objectionable as the small ones, it is in that class of eggs that he finds a large per cent spoiled when delivered at his packing house. We are certain that dark colored eggs are thicker in the shell and the white or albumen thicker and heavier than in the white shelled eggs, this may account to a certain extent the keeping qualities of the dark colored eggs.

SHALL WE USE INCUBATORS ?

II. THE ADVANTAGES.

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THE first and most obvious advantage of using an incubator and brooder is that the hatching can be done whenever the breeder wishes to do it. If one depends upon hens he is obliged to own it their pleasure in order to employ them. They will sit when they get ready and not before. They consult their await feelings, not their owner's desires. It is true that careful management can, to some extent, regulate the broody instinct, but it can not do so wholly. But the incubator is always ready.

The second advantage is that with the incubator large numbers of eggs can be set at once. A hen will cover say one dozen; one incubator will incubate one hundred, two hundred, five hundred or more according to the size of the machine. And there is not much more labor in taking care of the incubator and its large number of eggs than in caring for the hen with her small number. In other words the machine economizes in labor and thus reduces the cost of production. Profit depends either upon getting a good selling price or in reducing the cost of what is sold. The selling price, except as to wisdom in putting the goods upon the market at the right time, is largely beyond the control of the producer, but the cost of production we can regulate to a much greater extent. The labor of machinery is cheaper than that of man, and it is wise to substitute a machine for a man—or in this case for a hen—wherever and whenever it can be done. To the large producer we regard the incubator and brooder not merely as helpers but as necessities. Success in their business depends upon the ability to produce chickens at the most advantageous time and to rear them at the least cost. Without the incubator this is impossible.

A third advantage is that the chickens are hatched and can be reared with absolute freedom from vermin. By a careful inspection of the eggs as they are gathered or before they are put into the machine, the danger from lice will be removed. Hen hatched chickens, even with great care, often become lousy, to their serious detriment. Growth is arrested, development hindered, and death frequently ensues. But when an incubator and brooder are used this should never be found among artificially hatched and brooded chickens.

A fourth advantage is that broiler chickens, intended for broilers, can be forced ahead much more rapidly than those reared under hens. At eight weeks of age they will be as large as those reared by hens at ten or twelve weeks. For broilers and broiler raising, not only on account of having the birds ready at the right time, but also on account of securing the best and most profitable growth, resort must be had to the artificial process.

A fifth advantage is that chickens produced artificially are tamer and more easily handled than those produced maternally. This is no mere sentimental but a real pecuniary advantage, saving in food and securing both growth and fewer broken eggs.

And finally, for we must not allow this article to become too long, the incubator is a great saver of man, and thus upon a man's feelings. If there is anything provoking in this world it is an unfaithful sitting hen. She will desert her