

RAISING EARLY CHICKS.

BY JAY ARE GEE.

Opinions differ in the method of raising chickens as on other questions, some favoring the hen and others the brooder. The writer having had considerable experience both ways and having been decidedly successful in the matter of raising early chickens thought a few words at this season would not be amiss. Raising early chickens, especially high class stock calls for exceptional attention to ensure success. While I have no hesitation in saying that there is a decidedly larger percentage of fatalities among chicks raised by hens, I will also admit there is a larger percentage of deformed chicks raised in brooders. Chicks raised by hens do not grow so fast as brooder chicks, the reason is: most hens are irritable and nervous, and chicks do not get the same care and comfort as those raised in brooders. Where care and cleanliness is observed in brooders, chicks will thrive wonderfully, good clean food and water and a warm comfortable place to brood is all a chick desires or requires to ensure rapid growth. The evils of the brooder are weak legs, deformed backs, and bowel complaints, the two former are caused by rapid growth and an inefficiency of proper diet for forming bone and muscle, and the latter is caused by neglect, in sour food, water, and dirt. At least an inch of good sand should be kept on the brooder floor, and I would advise for food, bread made as follows: 2lb of cornmeal, 2lb of rolled oats, 2lb of flour, 1lb of lean beef scraps ground fine, 1/4 lb of dry bone meal the whole mixed together and baked in cakes and fed to the chicks in crumbs four times a day with a little boiled rice and green food occasionally added and with milk to drink. I have found chicks fed in this manner grow hardy, strong and show no symptoms of weakness in brooders. Many people who hatch with incubators blame brooders for weakness in chicks which have been inherited from the incubator, for in every case where an incubator is used a brooder is a necessity and must take every chick hatched strong, weak or crippled. Weak chicks have a decidedly better chance of growing and living in a brooder than under a hen. Anyone who has seen weakly chicks under hens is well aware of the small opportunity they have to live, consequently the brooder is the most reliable mother, a fact which can be seen by the large number of persons who are now hatching with hens and raising the chicks in brooders. A large majority of poultry fanciers have discarded the old hen for the incubator and brooder, which is the strongest possible argument in favor of artificially hatched chickens. With the setting hen appears that infernal pest the spider louse, in fact lice of all kinds, this being the case it is a safe argument that with good machines, artificial hatching is not only cleaner but a far safer method to adopt.

TORONTO POULTRY, PIGEON AND PET STOCK ASS'N.

THE above association held its annual meeting Dec. 13th, in Temperance hall, Mr. Chas. Bonnicks, the President, in the chair. There was a large attendance.

Seven new members were proposed and elected: E. Daniels, T. Brown, C. Coulter, G. M. Haven, F. Lemon, J. L. Corcoran, Geo. Webster.

The principal business of the evening was the election of officers for the ensuing year which resulted as follows: Honorary President, Chas. Bonnicks; President, Thos. A. Duff; 1st vice-President, Robt. Fox; 2nd vice-President, D. G. Davies; Secretary, Robt. Durstan; Treasurer, Jos. Bennett; Executive committee, Messrs. J. Dilworth, C. W. Wood, R. Downs, Jas. Dundas, Jas. Powell, F. Coulter, J. Dorst. Delegates to Industrial Exhibition, Messrs Bonnicks and Duff; delegates to Western Fair, Messrs. Barber and Fox. Auditors, Messrs Donovan and Dilworth, Receipts of the evening, \$35 00.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

E. J. OTTER, *Sec'y.*

HAMILTON POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

A WELL attended and enthusiastic meeting of the Hamilton Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association was held 7th Dec., 1894, the President, Mr. Cole in the Chair. The Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A hearty vote of thanks was given the retiring officers, and feeling and suitable replies were made by Messrs. Cole, Dunn and Murphy.

The Secretary's report showed the Association to be in a very flourishing condition. All accounts settled, and assets in the shape of coops, etc., of \$296 paid for.

It being their annual meeting the following officers were elected for 1895: Geo. Roach, Hon. President; D. J. Peace, President; Jno. Cole, 1st Vice-President; P. H. Hamilton, 2nd Vice-President; G. J. Dunn, Treasurer; T. D. Murphy, Secretary; Executive, Messrs. R. B. Hill, W. A. Holton, B. J. Conway, A. J. Kerr, G. H. Dennis; Auditors, Messrs. Walter Anderson and T. J. Senior. The winter exhibition is to be held in January. All birds will be scored and an outside judge engaged.