

If a brooder has contained chicks before, it should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before putting in a new brood, both to discourage lice and to kill any disease germs that might be lurking in the cracks and corners. Scrub thoroughly with hot water, in which has been placed good commercial disinfectant or cresol soap. The brooder should be thoroughly dried before the chicks are placed inside.



Colony house 6' x 8', accommodating 100 growing stock on range. House on 4" x 4" runners.

In the round hover, instead of gradually reducing the temperature by changing the regulator, it is preferable to tuck up the curtain a little at a time as the chicks increase in age, and give them more air, which has the advantage of reducing the temperature, and the fresh air aids to quick development and hardiness.

THE COLONY SYSTEM.

The majority of poultry-breeders employ the colony system in brooding their chicks. The individual, large or small, hover is used probably more than any other. This hover may be placed in almost any kind of a house, and is sometimes used in long continuous brooder-houses. It gives very good satisfaction, and is easily operated. About fifty or sixty, and with some hovers seventy-five, chicks may be brooded under one small hover, and from 300 to 800 chicks under a large hover, until they are five or six weeks old. It should be remembered that only those with experience can successfully handle chicks in large numbers under one hover. For a beginner to attempt to raise 800 or 1,000 chicks under one hover is a very hazardous proceeding. In the case of colony houses, the hover can then be removed and roosts placed in position.

To save the expense of a brooder-house for comparatively early spring work, when the weather is bad, and before green food is available on the range, colony houses can be brought up near the farm buildings. The limit of time for caring for