

The Poultry Yard.

Turkey Hints.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—In my last CANADA FARMER you gave a small article in reference to turkey breeding. Will you kindly inform me now how many hens I ought to keep with my bronze gobbler to insure a fair crop; also what kind of food and treatment would you advise for the young?

EDMONTONIAN.

"To make assurance doubly sure," Bennet says, there should be one cock for every dozen or fourteen hens. The same writer proceeds: For a few hours after hatching, the chicks require no food at all; and then, instead of cramming them—a process in which you are likely to break their little beaks—chop up a few hard eggs with parsley and a little bread or curd; make this into a paste, and present it to the birds in the palm of your hand, or place it before them on a stone, taking care that the hen does not rob them. In supplying them with water, use such very shallow vessels that they cannot wet themselves, for the least moisture appears fatal to them. As the young turkey chick seems quite incapable of caring for itself, and the mother equally so, it is a practice with some to put a few hen's eggs among the turkey's (which must be done about nine or ten days after setting,) that these, coming out with the little turkeys, may, by force of example, teach them to provide for themselves. Unless the weather is very warm the hen and chicks should be housed for the first month. If at any time they appear sickly or drooping, put a little cayenne pepper into their food. The most critical period of turkey life is when it is about two months old, and "shoots the red." The only treatment necessary is very nutritive food, a little pepper, and good, pure water.

Brahmas Defended.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—In the FARMER for June I find a correspondent writing against Brahmas. Now, having kept Light Brahmas for several years, and mixed fowls for at least twenty years, I think my experience as good as his. I used to get about 30 a couple for my chickens; now I get 60 cents. I can also get from one to two cents a dozen more for eggs from my Brahmas than I can for those of common fowls. And, another consideration, I never find them flying over my fence and destroying my garden more than they are worth.

J. T.

Toronto.

Ducks Dying in the Shell.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—If you can inform me why my ducks died in the shell when hatching, you will much oblige. I set two hens at the same time, on duck eggs, as directed in an article that appeared in the FARMER for April last. One hen had been laying in the barn in a nest of her own making, and I put thirteen eggs under her—result, 12 young ducks and 1 bad egg. The other I set in the pen—result, 4 young ducks, 7 dead in the shell, and 2 eggs broken. Now all the eggs set in both cases came out of the same basket. Why did I get such a good lot from the one hen, and such a bad lot from the other? But what puzzles me most is this: Why did not the ducks hatch out, for most of them chipped the shell before they died? I asked my neighbors, and they said thunder had killed them, so I let the matter go as "death from the visitation of Providence," but still I am not satisfied, as I did not hear any thunder on the day on which my ducks were hatching. If you can give a remedy against any similar future misfortunes, you will confer favor on

A SUBSCRIBER.

The first conclusion one would naturally deduce from the above is that natural or "hen made" nests must be decidedly preferable to "artificial ones." This, however, is not always, or necessarily, the case, as is proved in the experience of every poultry-man. The deaths and consequent loss of chicks resulted probably from one of two causes viz. 1st "chilling of the eggs." 2nd, a lack of sufficient strength in the chick to make its way out of the shell. When some of the eggs got broken in the nest, you should have taken all the others out and washed them in water several degrees warmer than themselves, then wipe them carefully and replace them under the hen. During the process of washing you would also have observed which eggs were good and which bad, the former sinking, and the latter floating. When eggs get broken in a nest, the

sitting hen is naturally besmeared with the escaping albumen. This she communicates to the other eggs, accompanied by greater or less portions of her own down, and the result is that the shells are strengthened, and the chicks chances of escape from them materially lessened. Most probably your chicks died in the manner just explained. "Chilling" happens in many ways. A laying hen getting into a nest in which the eggs are near hatching, will chill them. Sometimes the sitting hen gets weak and has not sufficient bodily heat to hatch out when two or three chicks are obliging her continually to shift her position. A good plan in such a case is to remove the chicks as soon as they are dry, and place them in flannel near the stove. Sometimes the owner thinks he knows better than the old hen how to hatch chicks, tries it, and spoils his clutch.

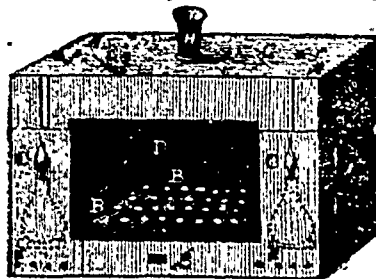
A Cheap Incubator.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—I have a desire to make an incubator. I noticed an advertisement in the *Poultry World*, so I wrote there, but the price asked was seventy-five dollars—quite too much in these hard times. Will you please give directions for constructing one, how the heating is done, steam condensed, pipes put in, and all that I should know in reference to the subject, so that I can make one to hatch say 50 eggs? In conclusion I must thank your correspondent, W. W. H. for the information given in the April number of the FARMER, in reference to the keeping of poultry. I find a steady increase of eggs since I commenced to follow his directions.

J. S.

London, Ont.

A cheap incubator, such as you desire, may be constructed thus: Lay out fifty eggs in five rows of ten eggs each. Measure the space they occupy, and make a shelf of the same size in which holes or "nests" are to be cut and lined with cloth for the eggs to rest in. This shelf is represented at B.B in the engraving. Next construct a box as shown, in the top of which rests a square zinc



boiler A.A. Beneath this boiler the box is to be divided into three compartments C.C. for lamps, and D. for the egg-shelf which is adjusted to ascend or descend by means of cords and pulleys manipulated from without, thus regulating its distance from or proximity to the heated boiler above. E.E. are vent holes for the lamps and the corresponding ventilation above is effected by carrying small pipes through the boiler at F.F., an arrangement which materially facilitates heating. G. is a small slide intended for use when it is necessary to lower the temperature around the egg-shelf. The front portion is covered with a glass face through which the process of incubation may be observed without admitting the external air. The pipe H, intended for replenishing the boiler, also serves for the insertion of a thermometer, at any time to test the temperature, which may be slightly under, but should never exceed blood heat. The entire apparatus must be kept in a comparatively dark place and tended closely for three weeks after everything has been got in readiness for hatching. As the air around the eggs must, to a certain extent, be kept moist, a saucer containing some water and a sponge should be kept under the shelf. This can easily be effected by means of a little, close fitting drawer, near the slide G. For convenience too, the glass door should be hinged above or below, rather than at one side.

The temperature within the hatching chamber should be lowered once every day, for about fifteen minutes, by lowering the egg-shelf and opening the slides.

NESTS.—A correspondent of a western paper makes the following excellent suggestions in regard to hens' nests: The nest-boxes should be moveable, so that after hatching, and occasionally when using only for laying, they may be conveniently cleaned. One way is to whitewash them; but another, preferred by some, is to kindle a fire inside and char them. This process will effectually destroy vermin and their larvae, and will thoroughly purify the nests by leaving a coating of charcoal inside. This substance is one of the best antiseptics, and a perfect deodorizer. Boxes made of seven-eighths stuff—pine, hemlock or spruce—will outlast a number of these purifications by fire, as the process tends to preserve the wood.

The Apiary.

Separating Honey from Wax.

A correspondent sends to the *Housekeeper* the following directions for separating honey from wax: Put the honey, comb and all, in a tin pan on a moderately warm stove, adding to each pound of honey a tablespoonful of water. Stir it occasionally with a piece of wire when the contents of the pan are perfectly liquefied. It must not boil. Set it where it can cool undisturbed; then pass a knife carefully around the pan to detach the cake of wax on the top, and rapidly, with great care, lift off the cake. Don't let it drain into the pan an instant, but place it in another utensil. Any one thus clarifying honey will find, on putting aside the cake of wax, that the impurities that would otherwise have to be strained from the honey will have adhered to the cake of wax, while the honey beneath is clear. If the honey should, in time, candy, heat it again with a very little water and brown sugar. Keep it in jars tied up in a cool place. Break up the wax cake and wash it in cold water till cleansed of honey; then melt and strain it. To bleach the wax, boil it, after straining for an hour in plenty of water, in which use a few drops of chloride of soda. When quite cold lift off the wax and leave it to dry and whiten in the open air.

BROOD CHAMBERS.—My brood chamber is twelve inches square inside, the honey box large enough to receive from twenty to thirty frames from six to eight inches square. These I lift out as they become ripe. These frames I fill into boxes of different sizes—some hundred pound boxes—for retail I find ready sale for this honey at from twenty-two to twenty-five cents per pound. I don't use the extractor, for it is a curse to the bee keeper. Stop the use of the extractor, and then artificial honey makers cannot take undue advantage of us, and destroy our market for our good honey. Yet there is room for improvement.—*Rural World*.

BEE ENEMIES.—Never put a swarm of bees in an old hive, as there will almost certainly be the eggs of the honey-moth deposited in the crevices of the hive, which will hatch out and probably destroy the swarm. Nothing is more to be dreaded by the bee-keeper than the moth, and when they once gain an entrance to the hive the bees appear as if powerless to expel them, although they will seize them savagely at the entrance. When moths have once established themselves in a hive, and the maggots begin to eat their way through the combs, the sooner the bees are fumigated and put into another hive the better, as for them to remain with the moth maggots will be certain destruction to them. Moths as well as the large slug may be taken in great numbers, late on summer evenings, by spreading a mixture of sugar, home-made wine and rum, on the walls or the stems of trees.—*Dagden's Bee Book*.

TO TRANSFER BEES.—If your bees are in the old square gum or box hive, approach the hive as before, and, after driving the bees up into it, remove it about fifty yards from the spot where it stood, turn it bottom up, place a box, about a foot square, in a tilted position, on top, and by rapping on the sides with a hammer, drive the bees into this box. After the bees have all been driven into the box, remove it and cover over with a thin cloth; then open the old hive and take out the brood comb; cut to fit the frames tightly, so that there will be no danger of the comb falling out. (It is best to solder with rosin and wax, but, if put in tight, the comb will stay); place the frames in the patent hive, make the entrance as large as can well be done, pulling into it, at the same time, a smooth cloth (pretty long), and then empty the bees out of the coy hive on to this cloth, and they will take possession without any more trouble, and stay there too.—*S. Cultivator*.

RAPE AS A HONEY PLANT.—As a honey-producing plant the rape is scarcely second to the linden, producing a beautiful golden honey of good flavor, and is in blossom, commencing about August 15th, and continuing a couple of weeks. As a farm crop it is as good, if not better than wheat. The time for sowing it is from the middle to the end of June. This gives time to prepare the soil after other crops are in, or, if wheat or corn should fail in coming up, rape can be sown in their places. It is harvested from the middle to the last of September, after all other grain is harvested. It does not impoverish the soil, but benefits it. From five to eight bushels more per acre of wheat are raised on ground which had rape the previous year. It lets no weeds grow after it is fairly started, growing very dense, and its leaves completely shade the ground, therefore it does not suffer from drought like other grains. The seed has a good cash market at Fond du Lac, Wis., where oil is extracted from it, and brings from \$1.70 to \$2 per bushel. From ten to eighteen bushels are generally produced per acre, but it is oftener over than under this estimate. Two quarts are sufficient to sow an acre. Thousands of bushels are annually raised in Calumet county, Wis., and it is just as staple a crop as wheat. Those doubting my statement, I refer to report of *agriculture for 1870*.