

January, February, March and the first two weeks in April. After this date it is almost impossible to obtain satisfactory results due to the variation of temperature. On warm days the fire must burn so low, that in a great many cases it fails to recover, and the attendant is continually building fires. The oil hovers should be substituted after April 15th.

The three great advantages of the colony house system of brooding are; 1. The concentration of numerous small flocks into a few larger ones. 2. Free range made possible. 3. Raising of flock absolutely free of vermin.

Flocks, numbering over 1000 chicks, have been successfully handled. This however, will depend largely upon the quality of the chicks.

Many good makes of coal burning brooder stoves are now on the market and the results with them are proving eminently satisfactory. The novice will secure better results by placing about one-half the rated capacity of chicks with each brooder, and in every case should give the brooder a thorough test before placing chicks in it.

The ideal initial temperature will vary from 91° to 95° Fr. depending largely upon the size of flock and quality of chicks. The temperature should in all cases be reduced as rapidly, as the chicks grow older, as is compatible with their comfort and all artificial heat removed after chicks are feathered. A wire screen of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mesh should be placed around the hover, leaving sufficient room to give the chicks a choice of temperatures. If this precaution is taken for the first few days, the chicks will soon learn to return to the hover when the least bit chilled.

Feeding—The digestive apparatus of young animals is larger than that of the adult in proportion to their live weight, which is a physiological explanation

of their rapid growth in proportion to their live weight. The object in feeding is to get the chicks through the critical period in their development with small mortality and with as rapid growth as is consistent with health and vitality. Such rapid growth necessitates an abundance of easily digestible and nutritious food material. The chicks should not be removed from nursery of the incubators until at least 24 hours after completion of hatch. Keep the nursery darkened and well ventilated. The first day in the brooder house, fine grit and sour skim milk, only, should be given them, thus filling the gizzard and getting the digestive tract in working condition and ready for the first feed. The yolk of the egg is absorbed just before the chick emerges from the shell and is sufficient food to last 48 hours. The chick will have by this time, used the yolk completely and by thus retarding early feeding, bowel trouble and digestive disorders will be reduced to a minimum.

Skim milk should be given at least, for the first two weeks. It has a value that cannot well be overestimated. It retains all the protein and ash elements most essential to the growth of young chicks. It tends to prevent mortality from all causes, and if fed soon enough will greatly reduce the death rate caused by bacillary white diarrhoea. Moreover, it is palatable, aids digestion of other foods, resulting in increased consumption and faster growth.

The "first feed" which has probably given the most satisfactory results, with all classes of poultry breeders and for all varieties of poultry is rolled oats, fed five times daily, at intervals of two and half hours, at the rate of 1 oz. to every 25 chicks. Equally good results are claimed by some people when bread