

## POULTRY DEPT.

Conducted by S. Short, Ottawa

### The Incubator

Although the temperature at the present time is that of mid-winter, progressive or up-to-date poultry breeders and fanciers are now turning their attention to the coming hatching season. Like the automobile, the incubator is becoming more and more generally used. It has passed the experimental stage and is now a complete and perfect hatching machine, capable of hatching 90 to 95 per cent of fertile eggs when operated by any one, whether beginner or expert, possessed of ordinary intelligence and perseverance.

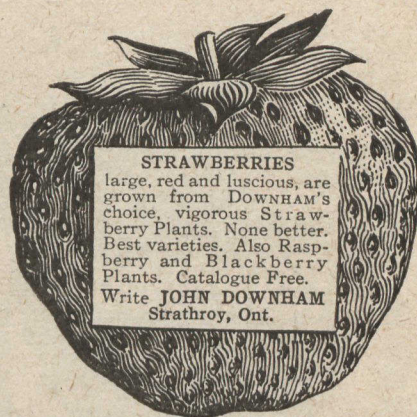
The incubator has advantages that cannot otherwise be obtained; for instance, it is generally admitted that eggs laid in February and early March, have stronger germs and are more fertile than eggs laid in late March and early April. Both for the show ring and for early winter layers, it is imperative that we have early hatched chickens. It is also a fact, that hens do not become broody (excepting an occasional one) in March and beginning of April and that is where the incubator is invaluable. If the breeding stock is healthy and vigorous, the eggs should be fertile. Chicks hatched the end of March and beginning of April, placed in a brooder, indoors, thrive well, if properly cared for and are in May ready to be put out on the grass runs where they make that rapid development so necessary for the fall winners at the shows and for early profitable layers.

Again, the chicks hatched in the machine

are free from lice of all sorts and are all of an age and even in size. With hens there is always the trouble of getting them to set in a convenient place. The fouling of the nests, the breaking of the eggs and the necessity of washing those not broken, the dusting of the hen for vermin, some of which always escape and attack the chicks, all of which is very disagreeable and sometimes very disgusting.

Incubators are made in all sizes from 50 eggs to several hundred. Some of the most successful hatches I have known have been the reward of beginners operating the machine for the first time. With each make of incubator there are specific instructions, very simple, clear and easily understood. Some breeders like one make of machine and some another. All machines of any prominence will do good work if instructions are faithfully carried out. While the incubator received its first start and came into general use in the United States, the machines made in Canada are equally good and have the advantage of being cheaper, there being no duty to pay and less freight, for Canadian purchasers.

**The Highest Perfection.**—It ought to be the aim of every person or firm that grows strawberry plants for sale to attain the highest perfection in vigor, growth and productiveness, but unfortunately this ideal is not foremost in the minds of all nurserymen. We are pleased to state, however, that one of our leading growers, W. H. Vanderburg, of Poplar Hill, Ont., makes this class of fruit a specialty and aims to grow plants that cannot be beaten anywhere. If you want big red berries and lots of them, buy your plants from this firm. Read the advertisement on another page of this issue.



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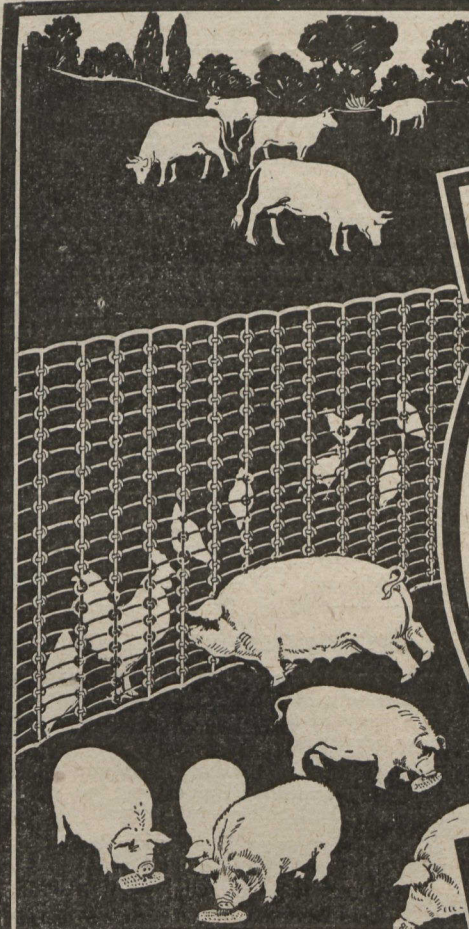
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