

tion repeated several times a day and many days together shelters them from many accidents and makes them grow strong.

(To be continued)

### Seasonable Hints.

There is one thing that cannot be too strongly urged on the poultry keeper, especially at this season of the year, and that is cleanliness. Filth is productive of vermin and disease, and no matter how good your breeding stock may be, or how likely looking your chicks are now, when the warm weather comes, and lice and disease abound, they will not thrive, however well fed and otherwise cared for. Therefore, as a preventive, rake up and burn all the rubbish in and about the yards, and dig them over if not sod, whitewash the houses, coops, nest-boxes, and all the internal fixings, and give the chicks a fair chance to develop all there is in them. Don't wait until you are compelled to do this in order to save a remnant of your flock, but do it now.

Where the chicks have a large range, little more need be supplied them than plenty of good wholesome food and shelter, but when confined in small yards they require constant attention. An effort should be made to supply them, as far as possible, with what they could procure if at liberty. Fresh grass should be given them every morning, fresh water twice a day, a small amount of animal food occasionally, and gravel to aid digestion.

Don't be tempted to hatch out more chickens than your yards and houses will accommodate when they are well grown in the fall, unless you intend to cull out largely when they are fit for broilers. It is a simple matter finding quarters for a lot of chicks when a hen can cover a dozen of them, but each of these, it must be remembered, will require as much house room when the cold, wet weather of the fall months come as an adult fowl. Crowding must be avoided.

Shade of some kind must be provided. Alternate rows of sunflower and hemp seed, sown in drills about four feet apart, will supply shade during the summer months, and nutritious food later on. The plants should be allowed to get considerable growth before the chicks are turn-among them.

As the warm weather approaches the setting hens will require more attention. The individual who would allow a hen to hatch three weeks on a foul and lousy nest should be prosecuted for cruelty to animals. The larger parasites, which make their constant abiding place on the hen's body, are bad enough, but a couple of thorough applications of sulphur or insect powder will generally dispose of these; the worst

are the small spider-like pests that find hiding places in every crack and cranny about the nests and houses, and are much more trying and difficult to get rid of. Look for these at night with a good light; they will be found then if about. Coal oil is the most certain remedy for these. When they are found about the nest the hen should be removed and given a fresh one, the old nest should be burnt, the nest-box thoroughly cleaned, the joints saturated with coal oil, and well whitewashed before being again used.

As a tonic there is nothing better than Douglas mixture in the drink. It tones up the system and fortifies against disease. Bone-meal will be found of great advantage to the growing chicks, especially of the larger varieties. It is an excellent preventive of leg-weakness, which is very prevalent when chicks are forced along rapidly with stimulating food.

### The English Press on Poultry Raising.

For the benefit of farmers whose pockets are so furnished that quick returns are needed in order to give them satisfactory living, and who with difficulty can afford to wait for the "slow shilling," the *Farmer* of this week suggests that the "nimble ninpence" may, perhaps, best be made by raising chickens. This is not to be confounded with the old recommendation to take to poultry farming of the antique and familiar kind. All that the raiser of chickens need have to make a beginning is a good modern incubator, and the power of getting newly laid eggs. Probably he would find it best to have fowls enough to lay these on the premises, as he is then sure of their age and know their breed. Hatching by artificial means is now no mystery, and the operation is more certain than that by natural means, and less trouble, besides being possible on a far more extended scale. The process is one which can be timed almost to the hour, and may be carried on without intermission through a good part of the year. There is, indeed, in our Midland Counties, an irreverent proverb which says that "Michaelmas chickens and parson's daughters are not worth the rearing;" but from early spring into pretty late summer the process might go on. On any farm there is sure to be all that the chickens need to develop a healthy growth, and the women of the house can do all the tending that is necessary. Or village folk could take an incubator and work in their homes, bringing the chicks to the farmer. It should be noted, too, that artificial mothers are provided for these young chicks, and are perfect even to the imitation of the cluck. As to the question whether a market could be found for the produce, it is one that needs hardly to be discussed.