

POULTRY WEEKLY

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All communications intended for publication must be sent to W. C. G. Peter, Angus. All advertisements, subscriptions and business letters to be addressed to the Publishers, Beeton.

THE SEASON.

MAY has always been regarded as the best month for hatching and raising chicks. This year, the season has been so extremely varied, that I have my doubts as to what May has accomplished for the poultry man. The heat has been fully as great as at midsummer and long continued too, but interspersed with that we have had cold rains, high winds and heavy frosts. These latter, coming on the very heels of almost tropical heat, have done much to cause loss in the young stock that was hatched early in May I'm afraid. I fear also that the breeding stock has suffered under these great changes of temperature, and it may be will not give us the results we anticipated. Of course we hope it will not be the case; but we can lay much of the cause to the peculiarly fickle season we have experienced. Bees no doubt have suffered too latterly though the extreme heat would scarcely affect them to such an extent as the poultry has suffered by it. We have had ice form here twice lately over an inch thick. Yesterday and to-day (28th and 29th) the cold has been intense, and very high winds prevailing, and with cold heavy rain, and as I took out just now, it looks as if, like the brook, "It can go on for ever". Such a dull miserable cold rain is falling, as my better half expresses it "a regular Old Country rain", and in fact I have in my own mind a vision of lines of "busses" with a crowd of um-

berella bearing citizens adorning the outside seats, and the driver with his "oilskin" or many caped coat, looking cheery in spite of wind or weather. Yes it is an old country day, to-day.

The Egg and the Embryo.

AS many of our readers will be getting their first lessons in poultry culture from the pages of the **POULTRY WEEKLY**, we have taken the above subject from Mr. Maurice H. Strong's valuable work, "The Artificial production of Poultry," thinking that the wonders of the construction of the egg and progress of the embryo to the perfect chick would interest and instruct them. First the construction of

THE EGG.

"The eggs of all fowls are of similar construction, viz., an outer porous shell, a quantity of albumen in fluid form and a yolk. These several parts are subdivided into other parts. The paper-like membrane lining the shell is double, the outer layer predominating in thickness, with a small air-cell between the two, at one end. The white, so called, probably because it forms a white mass of greater solidity when subjected to a temperature of 146° Fahrenheit, is composed of alternate layers of albumen, elastic in character. The office of both the shell and the white is, principally, to protect the yolk, which contains the germ and its means of sustenance during development. The yolk, which consists of colored oil globules, is surrounded by an envelope called the vitelline membrane. Suspended in the yolk is a small pear-shaped sac, widening out at the small or stern end, which just underlies the vitelline membrane. This outer end resembles a transparent disc, on the surface of the yolk, and close inspection reveals an opaque circle surrounding it. In this transparent disc can be distinguished a small white spot of irregular shape. This is called the