

The Poultry Yard.

A PRACTICAL BROODER.

An excellent homemade brooder is shown in Figs 1 and 2. It works very well indeed, costs but little and is more easily made than the incubator described in F & H Feb 15. The heater is

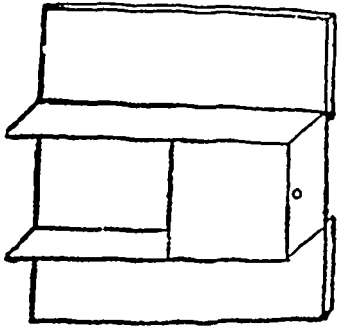


FIG 1.

like that of the incubator, 4 ft long, 1 ft wide and 6 in high. The top is covered with zinc nailed on tightly. The sides are lined on the inside with tin. The front has a sliding door with a little window. The hole for the chimney is 1 in from the bottom in the middle of the back. It is for a tin pipe 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Boards 1 ft wide are nailed onto the top through the zinc. The sliding door is not shown in Fig 1.

Fig 2 shows the top, after strips 2 in wide have been fitted onto each end of the zinc. Strips also 2 in wide extend all around the edge, excepting the small opening at the lower left-hand corner, 1 1/2 in wide, to admit air. b is a strip 8 in long nailed on to admit air to the zinc.

Nail on a covering of matched boards over the entire top, thus leaving a space which will be 2 in deep over the zinc and 1 in over the boards nailed on the sides of the zinc. A pipe 3 in long, 1 1/2 in diameter, extends through the center. Next make a cover to place over the floor. Make it of matched boards 2 in smaller every way than the floor. The cover is supported and adjusted to the size of the chickens by means of four legs which extend through holes and raise or lower by means of nails used as pegs. Tack strips of carpet, slitted every 4 in, around the edge of the cover. The cover should be 2 1/2 in above the floor for young chicks. The heat from the zinc will reach through

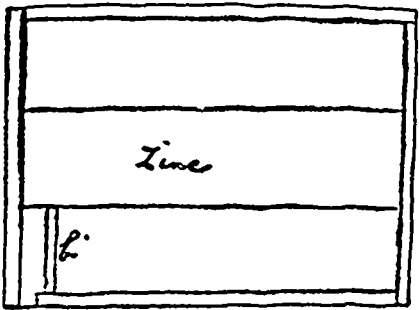


FIG 2.

the floor and radiate from the pipe in sufficient quantities to keep them warm. Use a long chimney of tin to carry away the fumes of the lamp.

A convenient way to locate the brooder is to set it in a small warm chicken house and bank up around it nearly level with the floor in which the chickens stay, taking care not to cover up the air-hole, and not to interfere with moving the lamp. Use the same kind of lames as for the incubator. So degrees is about the right temperature. It should never be much warmer than that. Sprinkle the floor with sand and clean it every day.

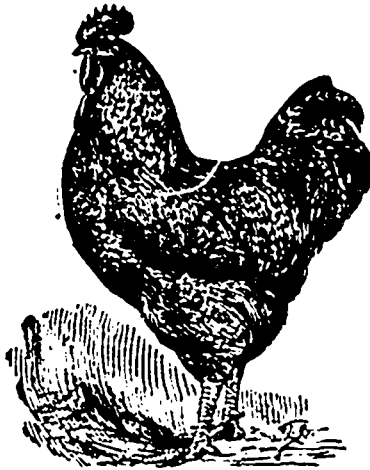
Vigorous Turkeys Fowls are able to have crooked breasts from improper breeding. I have found that turkeys raised from the same cock and hens will, after a few years, be liable to such deformities. Also, if there is the least trace of relationship between the cock turkey and the hens, the same trouble is almost sure to occur to a greater or less extent. This matter of changing the cocks cannot be urged too much if strong, healthy young turkeys are ex-

pected. Obtain a cock from a distance, if possible. I find that if he has considerable wild blood in him, his offspring are stronger for it. I know of nothing to relieve the afflicted ones, but care in breeding will entirely prevent such troubles.—[George M. Tucker.

The Early Sitter—Some hens will soon be set. If this is done now, care must be taken to prevent the hatch being spoiled if a cold spell of weather should appear, which is not at all unlikely. A thorough cleaning of the chicken house and nests is advisable. Then put the sitting hen where she can be kept comfortable, give food, water and exercise regularly, prevent the other fowls from disturbing her, and there is no reason why a good hatch cannot be secured from the early set hen.

An Egg Ration—Give the hens a warm mash in the morning composed of bran, corn meal and oats with a pinch of salt. Cover the house floor about 6 in deep with chaff, straw or leaves. Scatter the whole grain in this litter, making them scratch for all they get. Feed more oats and wheat, keep them scratching and you will get eggs if you have the right kind of fowls to start with.—[Edgar H. Merrill, Me.

The Buff Rocks owe their beautiful color to an infusion of blood from the R I Reds. In general qualities they do not differ from the Barred Rocks. Al-



BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCK.

though one of the new breeds, they already run remarkably true and uniform and give a large per cent of standard birds. Some growers consider them better layers than the barred variety. They have well developed bodies, yellow skin and legs, are good layers of brown eggs and are good sitters and mothers. No breed of practical general purpose fowls is more of an ornament to the farm.

Spring Rations—Charcoal, table scraps, milk, buttermilk, apples, potatoes, turnip tops, cabbage heads, onions, peppers, chopped lime, are all important at this time of year. Often there are damage fruits and vegetables in the cellar which ought to be removed anyway and will be appreciated by the occupants of the poultry yard.

To Stop Egg Eating give them china eggs to hammer at to their heart's content. At the same time keep before them all the crushed eggshells they can eat for several days. Keep ground oyster shells before them to harden their shells.—[A A Burr.

Crested Fowls are justly objected to because they are not able to see quickly and are therefore easily caught by vermin being an especially easy prey to hawks, and if out in cold rains they are almost sure to be troubled with colds and are very liable to have roup. They are undoubtedly pretty, but not very practicable.—[Emma Clearwaters II.

Eggs Well Kept—I am sending a recipe to keep eggs for nine months. I have done so, and the eggs were just like fresh-laid ones. I kept no brooder and gathered the eggs as they were laid. I got the grocer to give me a blister tin. I put in a layer of waste salt thick enough to keep the eggs from touching the bottom of the can. I greased them all over with fresh butter, of which I had plenty. Then I put

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