

## NEW FANGLED IDEAS.

**I**N your WEEKLY of May 8th, under the above heading, is a good word for incubators and brooders. Now this is quite a new-fangled idea, and I, for one, do not believe it will pay to use them. I want to ask a few questions of the editor: 1st. Did you ever see a nice looking bird that was hatched that way, I mean for plumage? 2nd. Did you ever see a chick that was over four or five months old that was raised in a brooder that was a credit to the brooder's motherly care? 3rd. Did you ever see a full-grown healthy bird that was hatched and raised artificially? I never did, and I fancy that most people who say so much in their favor are interested in the sale of the machines. Any way a hen is good enough for me and I can get as many chicks as most folks that way. Some will fool away their money because they see the machines are advertised to do the work, and then of course they get disappointed. I have never seen a chick worth anything hatched and not many hatched at all that way except at the fairs. I am asking straight questions and I hope you will not beat around the bush in answering me. I expect to see a "bee incubator" next.

A "BEE" MAN.

Toronto.

Our correspondent is mistaken about artificial hatching being a new fangled idea. On the contrary it has a very ancient origin; and I suppose we would not care to be thought as old as this "new fangled idea" is, viz.: over two thousand years. Not in our "great and glorious Dominion," to be sure, have we had them for any length of time.. or else "A Bee Man" would not be so mad with them. Ever since my memory serves me I know that artificial hatching has been a theme of some interest in England, and various experiments have been made there, but with varying results. I think the ingenuity of the Americans has over-reached my own countrymen in these inventions, but I must not forget the one I use was invented by an Englishman, but he never would have done it in England; they take life too easy there to trouble much. But now for our "straight" answers to those questions. I must first say it will not pay every man to buy or use an incubator, but it will pay the man who want birds in large numbers and early. To the first query I say I have seen *very handsome* birds, in plumage, that

have been hatched by incubators and raised in brooders. (2nd.) I have seen birds over *two and three years* old that were, even at that age, "a credit to the brooder's motherly care." I have myself shown chicks at poultry and agricultural shows that, at six and seven months of age, could not be beaten for size and beauty. (3rd.) Incubator and brooder chicks are as *fine* and as *healthy* as it is possible for chicks to be, and if I say brooder-raised chicks are three times as well grown and hardy as those of like age and season raised by hens, it is a fact though friend Bee Man may not believe it. As to "interest" in the sale of machines, I have none in *any* incubator or brooder. But I will always say what I think, for or against anything of interest to poultrymen. No doubt a hen is good enough for our Bro., but if he wanted early chicks for show, his hens are not on hand ready like the faithful artificial hatcher. Don't fool away your money, Bro. B., but if you ever get the her fever and buy an incubator of the right kind, there is no need for the remark "of course get disappointed," believe me. Well, if you have never seen machines hatch except at fairs I fear you have not sought far. You can come here at any time and see them, and no doubt nearer at hand you can see them. No fear but what the bee incubator will come in time, but don't buy one.

## Breaking up a Clucking Hen.

**T**HERE is a time when broody hens are not in demand, if the season is too far advanced, or if haply you have enough chicks. Still the hens will get broody, and it is desirable to break them up, and here I must offer a strong protest against the usual methods employed, such as "ducking" them into a pail of cold water; tying them by a leg to the fence or a tree, etc. By the way, I saw a new plan a few days since. I was in a certain place and saw two poor hens, each with about a yard of string to her leg, at the end of one string, a hen had a piece of brick to drag along, the other had a chunk of wood to the end of hers. It was to me a pitiful and barbarous sight. I asked what it was done for. "Why, to make the tiresome beggars forget they were clucking," was the answer I received. On asking how long they had been afflicted by bearing such a "trail" after them, I was told "Oh, not quite a week."