

# Des Moines

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## INCUBATORS AND BROODERS.



We invite correspondence for this important department of commercial poultry raising, which is growing so rapidly in Canada.

**M**R. A. G. Gilbert, the manager of the Poultry Department of the Government Farm at Ottawa, purposes taking up the artificial hatching and raising of poultry, and work will soon be begun on the needful buildings and pens. We may look for something good from his experience, as he will run the department on strictly business lines.

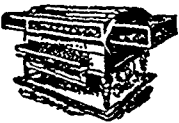
## EXCLUSIVE ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION.

The question has been suggested whether the general and continued use of incubators and the consequent persistent disuse of hens for hatching, will not tend to lessen and perhaps ultimately destroy their natural inclination to sit, thus eventually rendering all breeds practically "non-sitters," and compelling us to adopt artificial incubation whether we will or not.

We have never considered the subject from this standpoint, and are not fully prepared to say either that there may or may not be some occasion for the apprehension. We all know what unnatural results have sometimes been accomplished by breeding; some of them carefully sought after, and others reached incidentally, or accidentally, but none the less wonderful.

Take, for instance, the duck whose fondness for water is proverbial, and yet when bred year after year and for generations solely for rapid growth, and deprived of water except for drink, that they may lose no time or flesh in unnecessary exercise, but give their undivided attention to attaining a weight of five or five and a half pounds at nine or ten weeks old, this natural desire and liking for water and swimming accommodations and privileges sometimes seems to have been so thoroughly bred out of their very nature that we have known of instances where, as an experiment, they had to be forcibly driven into the pond, and instead of remaining there and enjoying it, they acted like so many old hens, frightened nearly out of their wits, and took the first opportunity to get ashore, and made the best of their way home. They knew nothing of aquatic delights, personally, nor had they ever been told of them by their parents who were equally ignorant on the subject as themselves. Neither had their unsophisticated ears been regaled with any traditional "tales of the ocean," from their grand or great-grandparents; consequently, they seemed in blissful ignorance of everything except their humdrum life of confinement, eating, drinking and growing, which to them was doubtless equivalent to "eating, drinking and being merry."

Now this instance, and similar ones, of unnatural results from peculiar modes of breeding, may seem to be pointers in the direction of our querist, but we can hardly regard them as anything more; and in corroboration of this opinion, we may point to our own



In the country, village, or in the suburb money may be made in the poultry business by the employment of correct methods. You can't afford to keep hens to hatch and brood your chicks. A better and more economical plan and one more certain of good results will be found in the use of the

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