

willing to hunt and scratch for a living. This indicates health. If the fowls are always ready to eat and scratch vigorously, you need have no fears about their health. Forcing with stimulants may be beneficial for a time, but soon a reaction will come. The most important requisite to success is a warm dry shelter, and the next a variety of food given judiciously.

Fine material is essential in making nests for sitters during the winter season. Coarse straw will allow too much cold air to enter underneath the eggs, sometimes materially weakening the hatch.

In winter fowls require a varied diet to do well. It must not be forgotten if we expect them early in spring to have full vigor and be productive, that the necessary kinds of food must be provided and fed regularly and judiciously.

RE INCUBATORS.

TO THE POULTRY FANCIERS OF CANADA.

Editor Review:—

A FEW years ago when the Gerred Incubator was being introduced to the poultry fraternity of Canada, I took upon myself the trouble of trying one to see what it would do. I failed in the first two attempts and blamed myself somewhat for the failures made, so that I tried it a third time and found that I was fairly successful, and felt satisfied then that if carefully attended to it would prove satisfactory, and thus gave my testimonial accordingly, and since then I have been watching its success carefully and have heard of the successes and the failures from different ones that have ventured to try it, and I regret very much for the sake of the poultry fancy, that as far as I have heard, it has not been generally satisfactory. Mr. John Gray of Todmorden, two years ago, took upon himself to run a Gerred Incubator, and failed; so far as my interest was concerned, I supplied five gallons of American oil, but all I got in return (as Mr. Gray put it) was roasted eggs. Since then Mr. Otter, one of the proprietors of the Gerred Incubator has continually brought before my notice the advisability of inducing the Poultry Committee of our Industrial Exhibition to offer better prizes for Incubators at our Industrial Exhibition, such as gold medals, worth \$50. And gentlemen, from my past experience I could not conscientiously advocate the giving of such a prize until more satisfactory results were accomplished.

At the last meeting of our Industrial Exhibition Poultry Committee held in this city, the question of Incubators came up, as usual, and in order to give Incubators a fair chance, I volunteered to see personally that the competitors (if there should be any) should have fair play. When the time came for entering the Incubators for competition, two machines were entered, viz: the "Gerred Incubator" and the "Victory." I might say that the Poultry Committee had left the matter entirely in my hands so that the competition should be conducted fairly and above board, and I requested the two machines to be placed in my residence, which was complied with. The accommodation afforded was as follows: The Gerred Incubator occupied a large room in the cellar 20 feet square, well lighted with two windows and the Incubator egg chamber was kept locked and a patent fastening put on the outside door so that no one could gain admittance without the knowledge of Mr. Gerred the inventor and operator of the machine then in operation. My duty was in the first place to count and mark the eggs put into the machine, so that I could readily detect if any eggs were removed from the machine, and this I did and did well, and Mr. Gerred in return, did his duty faithfully and well, and I think I can safely say that he was so regular in performing the duty required, that he did not vary 10 minutes each day. I was very glad to see him so regular, and often saw him when he didn't see me. I took jolly good care, however, to see that he neither changed the eggs nor brought chickens in his pocket. As the saying is, I watched him like a cat watches a mouse. On one occasion something I said or did caused him to be quite angry, but I did not care for that. I gave him fair play and watched him the more, I was bound to have fair play and he got fair play, and the result was, after the machine had run for 21 days it had hatched out under 50 per cent, and the remainder of the eggs left in machine continued to hatch out for two days after, making total hatch of about 50 per cent.

Now in all probability the matter will come up again when the Poultry Committee meets, and I for one will be in favor of giving a good prize to the machine that will hatch out 75 per cent, and further I will now take the same responsibility of looking after a fair contest, but I think the contest should be made during February or March, those are the months we want to use incubators. If the Toronto Poultry Association will form a committee and have a fair competition for incubators, I shall be pleased indeed, as far as I am concerned to see that they get fair play. Every poultry fancier is looking out for a good incubator that