

inventor of that machine or the wily fiend who wrote that glowing descriptive circular, that induced them to part with that fifty or seventy-five dollars.

I sympathise with these disappointed ones ; but courage boys, don't give up, there are machines built that will hatch more chicks from a given number of eggs than hens will, and I would not think of running the Poultry business without machines both for hatching and rearing.

In buying an incubator don't select any machine that has not positive control of the heat, recollect the temperature of the egg chamber is the most important point ; bear in mind also that no machine is absolutely safe where the heat is regulated by thermostats in the egg chamber, or electrical apparatus. Next to control of heat, in importance, is the application and control of moisture ; ventilation is not such an important point as many suppose, if you can keep the heat and the moisture right, you will have a good hatch if your eggs are fertile, but if your machine fluctuates from 90° to 110° you will save time, and much vexation of spirit by converting it into a refrigerator for your wife, or giving it to the children for a doll's house.

Make sure that your thermometer is correct, not one in fifty is, it makes no difference whether you pay twenty-five cents or a dollar, the cheapest is as likely to be correct as the dearest ; test it by placing the bulb next to the skin of breast of several sitting hens, note the variation, and my word for it, you will find this as reliable as if you had it tested by "Old Probs" himself.

In your selection of a brooder chose one with bottom heat, and if the heat is derived from a hot water tank all the better ; see that it is so built that it can be closed up tight in cold, windy weather, or the heat will blow out of your machine faster than it can generate ;

you can say "good bye" to your chicks if this last's long.

If you have not yet attempted artificial incubation, and run hens, go to work now before your chicks are hatched, and make a sufficient number of good coops to house your chicks comfortably during the term of their infancy, don't wait until Summer comes and then suddenly find yourself with a dozen broods of chicks and only half a dozen coops to accomodate them ; you will then be tempted to invade your wife's sacred domain to capture that nice box that she keeps in the lumber room to store her rag-carpet balls in, or that little packing case, that she so carefully papered with the remnants of last season's wall paper, and placed behind the kitchen stove, for the cat to sleep in ; beware young man if you help yourself to either of these, there will be a row, and don't you forget it, been there ? Well I guess I have.

Make your coops with a moveable floor and have a door in the roof, you can of course have another one for the exit and entrance of the chicks, I am not going to advocate stairways or elevators for chicken coops ; you will find the door in the roof a great convenience whenever you want to catch any of the chicks, it is much handier than going down on all fours and grabbing for them in the dark, as you can't see them your arm completely blocking the entrance, on occasion of this sort if your arm was six feet long, it would be short enough, and to fish out the provoking "critters" with the garden hoe or a pair of tongs is inconvenient. About 24x36 inches is a good size, have your ventilators under the caves of the roof, and *nowhere* else.

Steer clear of leaky roofs broken windows and drafts generally, and all other conditions that generate Roup unless you are studying for the Veterinary profession and want lots of practice ;

there is nothing so trying to the nervous system of the average non-professional chicken fancier, as doctoring a sick hen. Immediately after you have taken the trouble to squirt a delightful docation of Coal Oil and Carbolic Acid up her nostrils, she expresses her gratitude in a vigorous manner by uttering a squawk of terror and wildly flopping her wings, generally winding up by upsetting the contents of the bottle over your second best pants, and scraping half the cuticle off the back of your hand with her claws ; after fluttering through the drinking water, she fetches up on a perch opposite, whilst the tears trickling down her face indicate but faintly the rage and pain she is suffering.

FEATHERS *versus* EGGS.

BY STANLEY SPILLET.

Fancy poultry keeping is on the increase in this county, I am persuaded, though not having been able to give any time to it lately, having been very busy building and getting ground into shape for growing shrubs, etc. I still have my old love for a nice bird, and shall, as soon as I can get places of accommodation erected, have a few at least for my own pleasure.

I may say I promise myself the pleasure of experimenting from an economic standpoint exclusively.

I am aware that many of the standard requirements are identical with usefulness, but I am fully persuaded that much that is superficial is secured at the price of egg production. Of course this may be largely imaginary on my part, but as I shall not offer any of the results of my experimenting on this line for sale under false pretences, there can be no harm in my having an idea.

I had at the very beginning of my poultry experience a nice flock of Black Spanish, these birds I afterwards learned would have been simply nowhere in the show pen, white-face or the want of a sufficient extent of it,