

rid of than "bumble foot." It consists in a swelling under the ball of the foot, and varies in size from a moderate sized corn to a large open swelling which disfigures the bird and quite unfits it for the show pen. Some folks think it has some mysterious connection with the fifth toe, which is no doubt abnormal and may injuriously effect the structure of the rest of the foot. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that the two breeds which are most subject to the bumble foot, namely, the Dorking and the Houdan, are also the two in which the fifth toe is deemed an essential. Bumble foot is chiefly caused by over taxing the activity of heavy birds. A light active bird, such as a Hamburg, can fly from any height without injury. A large heavy bird, such as a Brahma or a Cochinchina, will not usually attempt to fly from any height, and is indeed incapable of reaching an elevated position except by easy stages. A lean Dorking or Houdan can fly almost as well as a Hamburg, and on putting on flesh is apt to attempt to fly down direct from high perches. This is the root of bumble foot. A careful arrangement of the perches will usually prevent this ailment from appearing. There is no reason whatever for fixing a perch higher than three feet from the ground, and two-and-a-half feet is a better height than three feet. Again, the perches should all be on the same level. To put them ladderwise causes much competition and scrambling for the highest places, and many tumbles amongst the competitors. Now is the time to see to this matter before the young cockerels and pullets get heavy enough to be injured by the high perches. When birds have once become effected they should not be allowed to roost at all, but be bedded on straw, and kept on a grass run. If there seems to be any matter in the swelling it may be lanced by making two cross cuts, extracting the matter, and keeping carefully bandaged

until the wound is quite healed. Caustic is also sometimes used with advantage in slight cases. We never tried it, but we fancy that painting with acetic acid would be likely to be beneficial. Perhaps some reader will try this last remedy and report progress.

### NOTES ON EVERY DAY NEEDS.

BY W. COOK,

Author of "The Practical Poultry Breeder."

### INCUBATOR HATCHED CHICKENS.

WE find that there have been a great many chickens lost this season that have been brought out by an incubator. We would refer our readers to an article on this subject in the columns of this paper. There is nothing more disappointing than to find the birds die off when they are once hatched, and to all appearance seem to be doing well for a week or two, then they begin to droop and die. No doubt the cold winds are the cause of this. If they are sheltered from the winds, the cold does not hurt them in the least; on the contrary, it rather tends to make them all the harder, for we find those chickens which have no shelter and no coop to run to, to sleep in at night and shelter them from the rain, do far better than those which are coddled up so much in splendid houses. Chickens, in some respects can be taken too much care of; they can be killed by kindness.

### CLEAR OUT ALL THE OLD HENS.

Those who have only a limited space for their poultry, and have been pretty fortunate with their young ones, should begin to clear out some of their old hens now eggs are so cheap, so as to give the young ones every opportu-

ity of growing, as their eggs in the autumn or early part of the winter will be very valuable, therefore it will be penny wise and pound foolish to keep the birds running too thickly on the ground.

### THE MONTH OF MAY.

The lovely month of May has once more returned when all nature dances for joy; undoubtedly this month is thought the best in the year. The flowers begin to open and show their beauty, and herbs and vegetables respond to the warm rays of the sun. I hope that all poultry-keepers will have a profitable month with the chickens, both in hatching and rearing. At this time of the year the bottoms should be taken from the coops, for the chickens do much better as a rule without bottoms than with them. I know it is not always convenient to poultry-keepers to set the coops on the ground, and perhaps it may not turn out so profitable in the long run. I will give my reasons for this:—

### HOW TO COOP THE CHICKENS.

Where a person has only got a small piece of ground, and the coops are moved everyday—as, if strong healthy chickens are required, they ought to be—the place is soon covered with manure. For instance, take a small back garden with three coops in it, which have to be changed every few days, the ground soil soon becomes covered over; in another case of a small field or orchard that has some twenty or thirty coops in it, if they are changed every few days the same thing occurs, and the ground speedily gets used up. In any such case I would advise the use of coops with bottoms in, for by doing this they can rear three times the number of chicks on the same space as well if not better, for the night excrements, and also some of the days too, remain in the coop, and can easily be done away with, which keeps the ground