

POULTRY ♥ WEEKLY

W. C. G. PETER,

EDITOR.

All communications intended for publication must be sent to W. C. G. Peter, Angus. All advertisements, subscriptions and business letters to be addressed to the Publishers, Beeton.

E. S. HEWITT, of Albany, Wis., packed an egg in a small box with cut straw and successfully shipped it by mail to the office of the Poultry-Keeper.

Canadian fanciers importing birds from either England or the United States should make a note on the entry sheet that the fowls are for improving stock and for breeding purposes. Where this is done there will be no trouble over Customs duties. Such birds are on the free list.

We ask each reader to send us on a postal the names of as many fanciers as possible in his vicinity that sample copies may be sent them.

FEEDING YOUNG CHICKS

A GREAT deal of the loss in very young chicks is due to their being removed too soon from their nest, and the warmth of their mother, and coaxed to eat before their system is in a fit state to receive nourishment, at least in the ordinary manner. Those who have had much to do with hatching know well that the chick, just before emerging from the shell, absorbs through the naval what remains of the yolk of the egg he was hatched from, and which has undergone some changes during the period of incubation. This yolk has nutriment enough in it to nourish the young chick perfectly for the first 24 to 36 hours after it is hatched.

The first feed for chicks should be hard boiled eggs chopped up very fine,

shell and all. Be sure it is boiled hard for about ten minutes and then it will chop nicely and not be at all sticky. Coarse oatmeal, stale bread just moistened with milk, and cracked wheat is a splendid bill of fare for them the first week or two, after that a little meat shredded fine and rice boiled in milk and water till it is well swollen, but not sloppy, makes a fine change, and in the heat of summer prevents diarrhoea. A little bone meal, about twice per week is good, especially for the heavy breeds. A desert spoonful to a quart of soft feed—soft feed made of shorts—and a little bran, and other scraps from the house, mixed with boiling water or milk and water, and fed when cool makes a good feed for breakfast and starts the birds well for the day, and warms them after the chilly nights we sometimes get, even in July and August.

Now do not think this a lot of trouble. Do not you think it will pay you to rush your birds ahead and get them well grown and ready to lay before the cold weather sets in about the end of October? If chicks once get a set back it checks their growth, and after a severe set back they will hardly make up again for a long time. They have to recover lost time before they can go ahead again.

Provide shade, if ever so roughly, from the searching rays of the sun, for when they lose their down, if the skin gets sunburnt badly cannot feather out nicely, and if checked badly in feathering they will never make headway and be thrifty, so let them have little places for shelter, at hand and they will soon know enough to betake themselves to its friendly shade.

I find it far the best not to give any water the first two days, but let the bread and milk supply them with