Winnipeg, May, 1909.

### The Western Home Monthly

# FARM POULTRY.

#### Confinement of Fowls.

After long confinement, the system of the breeding fowl becomes an easy prey to disease, the outcome of the conditions under which they have been kept. The eggs though fertile have weak germs and nearly every disease in the category presents itself, often in flocks that have never known disease before. You cannot raise healthy chicks from unhealthy par-ents. We can gradually breed out inherited weakness but this takes several seasons and is not always successful. To have healthy fowls we must breed them close to nature. It is not natural to confine them in a close house: they are more hardy if kept in a natural state. Of course, during confinement we should give them free range conditions-plenty of exercise with animal and vegetable food. If we raise chicks with little artificial heat after the weather has become moderate, place them in open coops after they leave the brooder and prevent their crowding and huddling together. If we do this we do a great deal toward securing fowls that are free from disease, because they have been reared in Nature's way. After a breed of fowls has become acclimated, they can stand the rigors of almost any climate. They should be protected by an open front house. Stock thus raised will be better able to resist disease.

#### Artificial Rearing.

Artificial rearing becomes easier when the weather permits the brood-ers to be located out of doors. Some The outer sheltered spot is best. section of the brooder in which the chicks are supposed to pass most of their time, should be well littered. The little fellows should have access to plenty of sand. Some millet seed scattered in the litter will keep them busy. Have attached to the brooders little runs made of wire netting. We can generally tell about the appearance of the chicks whether they are too cold or not. Keep the chicks busily employed and there is not much danger of their food not agreeing with them. On the farm I find. that it is a good idea to distribute the coops over the fields near the house. Of course, you should not scatter so that one will have to go far to care for the litters, but put them some distance apart. There are no chicks so fine and robust as those raised on the farm with ample opportunity of ranging over the fields and finding a large portion of their own food in the form of worms, insects, green leaves and seeds.

Small potatoes and refuse vegetables help to furnish the hens a variety.

Absolute cleanliness in the coops and brooders is necessary if you would keep the chicks alive.

Be sparing in the blame you give the incubator for your poor hatch. Possibly it is your own fault.

Too much or too little ventilation in the incubator and too much or too little cooling of the eggs will injure the hatch.

It is bad practice to put two kinds of eggs in the machine at the same time. Hatch the duck eggs at one time and the hen's eggs at another.

Early hatches are often stronger and better than those coming later in the season. The chicks seem to stand the cold weather better than the heat of summer.

Some people fear that the poultry business will be overdone. The demand for eggs and poultry is increasing every day so there need be no anxiety on this score.

Cooling the eggs is important. The shell expands with heat and contracts with cold. This process resulting from airing the eggs breaks the tough fibre and facilitates the hatching process.

#### Would You Have Eim Laughing the Whole Year Bound?

Would you have him laughing the whole year round? And never give place to a tear?

Must the minstrel's harp always with music resound, Though his spirit be sometimes so

drear That each touch of the string Sinks deep into his heart,

But increases the smart?

Oh, think not the face that is always so gay,

Or the eye that is always so bright, Is the fittest companion in life's varied way,

Or will render its burden most light When the night-shadows lower O'er the grief-laden breast, And the sorrowful hour Brings its yearning for rest. Oh! No! There is much in Love's gladness, 'tis true, To weave round the trust-giving heart; But far stronger it grows when in sorrowing, too, Each one gently sustaineth a part. Then if sometimes the showers You see falling again, Oh! remember-the flowers Are "most sweet in the rain."

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#### Fertile Eggs Necessary.

No machine can make good hatches from poor eggs-eggs lacking in fertility. No machine can hatch chicks strong enough to live if not properly brooded. They may hatch beautiful-ly and die peaceably in a few days. A hen could not do it, and a machine cannot. Few people there are who do not have to learn by hard experience that brooding the chicks is the greater science of the two. It must be mastered before any great success is achieved.

#### Incubator Notes.

Running the incubator in a poorly ventilated room is bad for the hatch.

Don't let the lamp smoke. Keep the holes around the burner clean and open.

Too many eggs in the incubator is as serious a mistake as too many chicks in the brooder.

