

"SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

"Students, before being admitted to the school of agriculture, will be required to pass an examination in English grammar and composition, and in arithmetic.

"The following course of study is prescribed for students in agriculture:—

<i>First Year.</i>	<i>Second Year.</i>
Elements of physics.	Mineralogy and geology.
Chemistry.	Land-surveying.
Natural history.	Natural history of farm animals, and of cultivated plants.
Theory of agriculture.	Practice of agriculture.

"Students, who shall have passed through the above course, will be admitted to examination for the diploma of agriculture.

"The fees payable by students of agriculture, to the bursar, on behalf of the college will be—

First year.....	£1 10 0
Second year.....	1 0 0
Diploma.....	0 10 0

"The fees payable by students of the agricultural school to the several professors, for attendance on all the lectures prescribed in the curriculum of agriculture, will be—

Physics	£1 10 0
Chemistry.....	1 10 0
Natural history.....	1 10 0
Land-surveying.....	1 10 0
Natural history of farm animals	1 10 0
Mineralogy and geology.....	1 10 0
Theory of agriculture	1 10 0
Practice of agriculture.....	1 10 0

THE HYDRO-INCUBATOR FOR HATCHING EGGS, AND REARING POULTRY, AT CHISWICK.

SIR,—Having occasion to visit the great city of centralization, overgrown wealth, and extreme poverty, I was driven out by a friend to Chiswick, to visit Mr. Cantelo's Hydro-Incubator, or egg-hatching, and poultry-rearing establishment, and must confess, though I had no previous faith in it, it astonished me to see, at this inclement season, chickens of all ages, from just emerging from the shell to that of being ready for the table, and most singular, each in perfect health—no drooping of wings, no moping in corners, no pip or roup—in fact, no disease to which poultry flesh is heir to. A lot of chickens, in large or small quantities, in such rude health, I have never seen; and there has been reared up in one building, and at one time, upwards of 1,300, all to be disposed of, from the London poulterers' shelves, and still not equal to the demand. The advantages are many, in comparison to hatching by the hen; in the first place, they have no hen to devour their dainty food, such as chopped egg, and oatmeal for the young ones; they have no hen to drag them through the ditches; they have

no hen to trample them to death, and they have no hens or larger chickens to peck at them; they have their artificial mother, kept up to the temperature of the natural mother; and it is beyond conception, how they will adhere to the warmth of the mother, prepared for them, and run in under the woollen cloth, as if it was natural to them. Each age has its separate compartment, with an opportunity, in fine weather, of passing out to a grass-plot; and you will see them enjoying themselves in the open air, and, when at all chilled, returning to the artificial mother, and making themselves perfectly comfortable.

My astonishment at the fine, healthy, and vast number of chickens produced by this means, has caused me to begin rather at the wrong end, having described the chickens before I have hatched them. The hatching apparatus is a table, the upper part of which is kept up to 106 deg. and is padded with Indian rubber; the eggs are placed in a tray, with perforated bottom, and laid on a woollen cloth, and raised, to come in contact with the rubber, which sinks and covers the eggs as much as the natural mother is supposed to do; thus nature is represented as nearly as possible. After incubation, the artificial mother consists of a number of heated pipes, about an inch and a quarter in diameter, and about the same distance apart, resting on supporters, about five inches from the floor; beneath these pipes is a sliding board, which is always at such a height as to allow the backs of the chickens to touch the pipes, and is gradually lowered as they increase in size. This board is removed and cleaned every day, or replaced by another, which had served the day before, and had been cleaned and aired during the twenty-four hours preceding; above the pipes (about an inch) is another board similar to that below, from which descends a curtain in front of the mother; this board serves the double purpose of economizing the warmth, and preventing the chickens from dirtying each other, as they are fond of jumping on the mother if not prevented. The young chickens having been once placed beneath this mother, will only leave it to eat, drink, and exercise, and return to it, of their own accord. The patentee, Mr. Cantelo, has had equal success in rearing turkeys, pea, and guinea fowl, and, although I have seen ducks in all quarters of Great Britain, I have never seen, in one lot, so fine a collection as those produced by the Hydro-Incubator.

Having, on my journey, visited the great aviary of the Earl of Derby, I there found the incubator in its perfect working state, and was informed by his lordship's intelligent curator, it was most valuable for hatching out the eggs of foreign birds.

Any further information wished for by the scientific or curious on the above subject, shall be communicated, through the medium of your widely-circulating paper, by yours, &c. JAMES JOS. NOLAN, 33, Bachelor's-walk, Dublin.