

roasters in large numbers, we must answer unqualifiedly, *Yes*.

The incubator is to the poultry industry what the reaper is to the grain raiser or the mowing machine to the general farmer, what the sewing machine is to the seamstress and the power loom to the manufacturer of cloth. And, it is possible, that this is but the first invasion of machinery into the poultry industry. The time may come when we shall feed, water and care for our fowls, clean their houses and do other things about their management by machinery. It is not wise in this "machine-ridden age" to limit the possibilities of machinery in any field of action.

### MANAGEMENT OF LITTLE TURKEYS IN RHODE ISLAND.

EXTRACT FROM ADDRESS BY SAMUEL CUSHMAN, PAWTUCKET, R. I., DELIVERED AT NEW YORK FARMERS' INSTITUTE, MIDDLEVILLE.

**L**ITTLE turkeys need no food for the first 24 hours, and then should be fed something light and nutritious. They require considerable care for the first eight or ten weeks. Some growers confine the hen turkey in a moveable slat crate the first few days and allow the little ones full liberty. Others instead of confining the hen in, tie one of her feet to a peg driven in the ground. Another plan quite generally followed is to put the little turkeys inside of a large triangular pen and give the hen her liberty. The pen is moved frequently to fresh ground. When the little ones can jump over the 12 inch board they wander at full liberty with the hen. Although confinement is usually necessary for the first few days to prevent their getting bedraggled in the long wet grass, or from being caught out in showers, they thrive much the best if they can be given their full liberty from the first on a dry pasture where the grass is short and there are no trees. The hen will protect them from showers, they will get more of their natural food, more exercise and are free from restraint so irksome to turkeys of any age. Little turkeys are tender little things and light eaters, and should be fed often (if not at full liberty), with easily digested food that is not too concentrated. They will not thrive long on rich or indigestible food which is frequently the cause of bowel trouble.

The most successful growers in R. I. feed coarsely ground meal made from old northern grown white flint corn mixed with sweet or sour milk. Most farmers prefer sour to sweet milk. One successful breeder gives them bread,

made of corn meal soaked in milk and baked. Dutch cheese or curdled sour milk is excellent if not heated too long. We object to boiled eggs and white bread soaked in milk as being too rich and liable to cause digestive troubles after a time. Heavy feeding kills the weak. Eggs are excellent as well as milk and help take the place of insects, but they should be made into unsweetened custard or diluted with corn meal and baked to avoid evil results.

Something sour seems to be a necessity in the food of domestic wild birds that receive more grain food than they naturally secure. Raisers of pheasants and other game birds, we understand, add vinegar to the dough from which is baked the bread fed to the young. The food supplied to young turkeys at liberty should be only supplementary to their natural food. A mere aid that will counteract the tendency to looseness caused by their natural food and enable them to eat and digest more.

### SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### *Editor Review:*

**A**BOUT two years ago I bought a pair of black Minorcas, both first prize birds, at Hamilton show, paying a reasonable figure. I bred this pair, raising a number of pullets and cockerels for the spring of '96. I exchanged the cock bird for a cockerel, with Mr. T. T. Senior, of Hamilton. I bred this cockerel with my best pullets last season. Now the question.

Not long ago I noticed that my (supposed) best hen had a white tip on one of her tail feathers (please find such enclosed), and two or three of my pullets are the same. My pullets are very good in every way but this. This hen I speak of did not have any white till after this season's moult. Another fact I would mention, that not one of my cockerels have any white, not even the poorest. Last season a breeder paid a visit to my place, and pronounced this hen to be the best I had, and told me to keep her over this year. He said also that she would score about 92 or 93. I should think I would have noticed the white last spring had it been there.

Now, would this disqualify these birds. These fowls are good birds only this one thing. They have no white except in tail feathers, and no more white than what is in the feather enclosed, just the tips.

Yours fraternally,

Lynden, Ont.

MORLEY HOUSE.

ANSWER.—This is quite a common failing in Minorca hens, in fact in almost all black breeds after three years of