

I have seen incubators opened with the lamp burning as high a flame as possible without smoking, and the regulator put to its extreme capacity with the heat gradually rising, the operator complaining that the regulator was worthless. What folly; is it any wonder that some people don't succeed with incubators? The first thing they do when they get an incubator is to set it up and light the lamp; then as soon as the heat is up, fill it with eggs; some put the eggs in as soon as they put the lamp in place. A man sent for me to come and tell him what was the matter with his incubator. He could not get the heat up above 90 degrees; he had got the incubator at 10 a.m., and it was 4 p.m. when I got to his place. He took me in and showed me the incubator; it was a 100-egg size to my astonishment. I saw he had the machine full of eggs. The lamp was burning as high as it dare. The regulator was drawn as tight as it could get. I asked him when he put in the eggs. He said right away when the machine was set up.

I told him he should have run the machine empty for a few days before putting in the eggs. He seemed surprised at what I told him. Why, said he, the manufacturers claim their machines are self-regulating. "That is all very true," said I, "yet you must adjust the regulator to the proper degree of heat first; then if the lamp is properly cared for, the regulator will keep the heat right until the embryo chick or duck is about ten days old, and begins to throw off heat caused by friction of the rapid pulsation going on inside of the eggs."

After this stage it is no longer a question of the temperature of the egg chamber; it is the eggs that you must look to, as the animal heat will increase daily after the tenth day; the greater the number of fertile eggs in the machine the more the heat will increase; in keeping with this you must gauge the heat to its proper point.

I have always had the best results by running at 102 the first week, and 103 for

the rest of the hatch. Always keep the thermometer between two fertile eggs with the bulb touching both eggs just above the centre. These eggs should be examined daily. A dead embryo on the fourteenth day is two degrees lower than a live one; and on the nineteenth day, it is four degrees cooler. This should impress you with the importance of this matter. If you neglect these points you must expect to fail.

THE FRENCH BREEDS.

The most appreciated poultry in the Paris market is undoubtedly the Houdan, easily known, even when plucked, by the five toes, and by their legs, which are of a pinky hue splashed with a grayish blue. It is an excellent bird, with a quick development, produces large white eggs, which are preferable to those of the Cochon and its crosses, which have a yellow tint, the white being preferred in the Paris markets. It may be claimed that Houdans when well fed and in comparative liberty are at four months old as large as the parents. In this country Houdans have proved to be the hardiest birds of the French breeds. They do not sit, which is a defect inherent in their quality of being good layers. There is sold annually in the markets of Houdan, Dreux and Nogent-le-Roy about six million francs' worth of fat poultry of this breed (nearly twelve hundred thousand dollars). The Crevecœur is also a valuable bird. The flesh is very delicate; it grows rapidly and fattens easily; the eggs are very large, of an average weight of two and one-fourth ounces each. At an adult age this bird weighs over nine pounds. At two years old some weigh ten pounds and over. It can be put up to fatten at three months old, and at the end of a fortnight is fit for the table. At five months this bird attains its full development, and at that age it weighs about seven or eight pounds, and sometimes more. La Fleche is not so precocious as the former breeds. At the yearly exhibition in Paris they were ad-