# POULTRY YARD

### How to Set a Hen

Hew to Set a Hen
Most people take little care of how
they set a hen. They blame the hen,
the eggs, or anything else they think
of at the time. One should select a
hen of medium size, with mee clean
legs. Get one that is quiet, one that
you can put your hand under, without
her fluiering off the nest. Heavy
hens are too clumsy on the eggs, and
are very apt to step on the chicks.

Restrict means and the process of the control of the control

Restrict means are the control. Having procured your hen, give her a

Having procured your nen, give ner a good dusting with insect powder:

A good nest can be made out of a cheese box. Leave the lid on. Cut a fair-sized square hole in the side. Then lay in a couple of inches of soil, and shape it like a nest. Place in Then lay in a couple of inches of soil, and shape it like a nest. Place in some nice straw on top of the soil, When all is ready, take your box to the hen's nest after dark. Slip her lightly into the box, with a couple of nest eggs. Put your box where you want it, and next night you can put your good eggs under her.

your good eggs under her.
Give her a good feed early in the
evening. After she is on, put a bit
of sacking over the hole to prevent
her being molested by the other hens.
A good test of a broody hen, is to
place a couple of eggs in front of her
in the nest. If she pokes then unin the nest, and the proper shall be been been been
ber breast, she will prove all right.
Dust her again puer the end of the Dust her again near the end of hatch. Do not forget to feed hatch. Do not forget to seek shat water her, and give her grit. Whole corn is a good grain to feed her while she is sitting.—Harry T. Lush.

#### Ensuring Fertility of Eggs M. Lockhart Tindall, Pembroke Co., Ont.

M. Lockhart Tindau, removase vo.

One of the chief difficulties poultrymen have to contend with is the intertility of eggs laid during the writer and early spring months overcome this, select brids for breeders that are fully matured, healthy, ers that are fully matured, healthy and free from vermin. Having assur ed yourself on these points see that the hen-house is thoroughly clean, dry, and well ventilated, and that it has from six inches to a foot of litter on the floor.

carefully after their feeding, As quality, not quantity, of eggs is desired, the manner of feeding will differ considerably from that of the stock kept for winter layers.

As exercise is one of the necessary



adjuncts to good health nearly all feed should to hard grain fed in the litter so that the birds are compelled litter so that the birds are compelled to work for every grain; by this method of feeding you over come huddling up in the corners. A good ration is two parts wheat, one part oats, one-half part corn or barley, one-quarter part buckwheat, and one-quarter part buckwheat, and one-quarter part buckwheat, and one-quarter part buckwheat, and one-quarter part pass. Grit, oyster shells, charcoal and beet scraps or fresh meat should be before them all the

If obtainable, cut green bous should be fed three times a welk in quantities of not more than one onnee a hen. They should, also, be kept supplied with vegetables—mangolds, sugar beets, red beets, or durings—cut in half and nailed to the wall. These are excellent, so also is cabbage hung up about a foot above the litter. If clover hay be obtainable, make a pock-cover hay be obtainable, make a pock-wall and stuff in an aradil or two of clover end you will be surprised to see how eagerly the hens will strip the stalks of both flower and leaf. They should have plenty of fresh water. If obtainable, cut green boxe should

ter.
The essential points are: first, heal-The essential points are: inst, neat-thy, vigorous stock, free from vermin; second, clean, well ventilated quar-ters; third, well balanced rations of good sound grain and a supply of water, grit, etc., and, fourth, as much fresh air and exercise as it is possi-

Irean air and exercise as it is possi-ble to give them.

Under these conditions the eggs laid will contain strong vigorous germs, that, in their turn, will pro-duce healthy chicks if incubation be performed properly

#### INCUBATION

It is generally conceded that artifi-cial incubation is the most practi-cal method of producing chicks in quantities. If you do not own an inquantities. If you do not own an in-cubator choose one made by a thor-oughly reliable firm who guarantee their machine and stand by it. Don't allow yourself to be cajoled into buy-ing an incubator because it is sold at and an incubator occause it is soid, at a low figure, as it may be the deariest in the long run. After having selected and bought your incubator, test the thermometer and see that it is working properly. Upon this a great deal depends. Every incubator operated the control of the control occasion. deal depends. Every incubator op-erator should have a spare thermom-eter, for then, in case of accident, there would be no delay-in replacing

Taking it for granted that the in-cubator is set up and running ac-cording to the manufacturer's directions for a day or so, in order that the regulation of heat may be thorough-ly understood, it is now ready to rely understood, it is now ready to re-ceive the eggs, which, in order to ob-tain the best results, should not be more than a week or 10 days old— the fresher the better. The eggs should be carefully selected and all misshapen, thin shelled, mottled (that is, eggs with thick and thin patches in the shells), very large and very strail ones should be rejected.

#### SEPARATE THE EGGS

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If you are the owner of more than one incubator I would strongly recommend you to place the eggs of one class of birds into one incubator, and the eggs of another class into the other. By this I mean' if you have eggs of the Mediterranean breeds and American breeds place the Medi-terraneans in one and the American in another, as the germs from the Mediterranean breeds seem to be more

too many, may be removed to the tender and the large incubator refilled, thus saving valuable time. A white shelled egg may be tested on the third day, esepcially after one has had a little experience.

In testing, the new operator should In testing, the new operator should be most careful, in handling the eggs, not to give them any sudden twists or jars, and when testing to hold the egg horizontally, as the yolk is then held or suspended in a natural position. It must be borne in mind, that now life has started in the egg, any now life has started in the egg, any sudden jar or rough usage may cause a rupture of the blood vessels. Often, through careless handling, a chick will be put back in the incubator, dead, having bled to death from the causes stated above, and the next time it is tested the fatal red ring

When the twentieth day has arrived and the chicks have commenced to break the shell, the beginner needs to exercise some self-control and to refrain from opening the incubator as the sudden draughts caused thereas the sudden draughts caused there-by chill the newly hatched chicks and also cause the death of many just pipping. Never remove any of the chicks until the hatch is over, for by so doing the temperature in the in-cubator will drop about one degree for each fifteen chicks removed. It will be found much better to le the chicks in the incubator for the chicks in the incubator for the first 48 hours, when they may be re-moved to the brooder, which has been previously prepared and heated to receive them.

## To Establish a Laying Strain

Mr. Harry Lush, a well known poul-Mr. Harry Lush, a well known poul-tryman of Peterboro, in writing to the Poultry Editor, speaks of the methods used in selecting the breed-ing stock in establishing a record lay-ing strain. He says:— "There is much talk about increas-ing the says record in the says of the says are according to

ing the egg production of the hens of the Dominion. Some reader may wonder how it is possible to make a hen lay more eggs than she would a nen tay more eggs than she would ordinarily, but the professional poultrymen can easily persuade her to double the quantity. First, a tag is put on one of the legs of each hen, so that she can be identified. Then a trap nest is used, so than an accurrance of the state of the ate account may be kept of her record during the season. At the end of the year the ones who have laid the most are saved for breeders, and paired are saved for breeders, and paired with males whose mothers had equal-ly good mothers. A breeder wishing to increase the modern to the control of the contr ly good mothers. A breeder wishing to increase the production of his flock would not use a female in the breeding pens if its mother had not laid at least 160 eggs in her pullet year. He would not use a male unless its mother had laid over 200 eggs per year. By keeping his pens filled with birds bred under these rigid rules of selection, he can easily force the egg production far above that of the average farm hen of mongrel breed and indifferent habits."

### Zenoleum Saves Incubator Chicks

In Bulletin No. 151, Mr. W. R. Graham, Poultry Manager Ontario Agricultural College, reports a series of experiments on the management of incubators, from which the following is an extract:

Mediterranean breeds seem to be more vigorous, and when put into an ineubator alongside the American breeds they invariably hatch out several hours before the others and also show a larger percentage of chicks. I have proved by experience, to my own satisfaction, and to that of other satisfaction, and to that of other satisfaction, and to that of other percentage of the second second

leum was used as a disinfectant in a test alongside of mercuric chloride The results were that the chicks from the machine washed with the 4arry compound lived, while most of the

Cleanliness means health for brooder hatched chicks. There is no surer way to stunt them than to allow the health to run down. Clean up regularly, allow no dampness to accumulation of the state of the late, and occasionally use some dis infectant to keep the brooder sweet

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