

cultivation, and not on the manner in which the heat was applied to give it a start in life. The same is true of the egg, which is but a seed from which the chick has its origin.

It is said that the feeding and rearing cannot be done as well by the use of brooders as it is done by the hen. Again we deny the truth of this assertion. The hen broods her flock from four to six weeks and in some cases longer. All she does for them is to keep them warm at night and hover them occasionally through the day, hunt insects and other food, she imparts nothing and provides nothing that can not be as well provided artificially. That she often makes a sorry job of it is a notorious fact, that some persons have failed of success by the use of brooders is equally notorious, but nothing is proved thereby.

In a fair contest between an intelligent natural mother and an intelligent operator of a brooder, we defy the most expert poultry judge in the country to detect a shade of a difference in results so far as concerns the development of the carcass of the fowls and the perfection of their plumage.

Our readers should not be deterred from using incubators and brooders by any such talk as has been referred to. That they are not useful to the average farmer is true, but many Farm Journal readers rear chicks by the hundred and some by the thousand. The latter whether they grow the chicks for market or for fancy breeding, cannot afford to do without artificial helps. These should be provided in the fall, all the slow and behind hand folks put off getting them until spring when the markets are full of orders.—Farm Journal.

"And so say all of us" with a "hip, hip, hurrah!" for the incubator, providing it is the right kind. The only benefit of mother hen, is that she can, if allowed plenty of range, save a lot of trouble to the poultry keeper in summer, but in winter and early spring the brooder can discount her all the time, and without question the chicks raised artificially are larger and quicker in growth.

#### Wheat vs. Poultry and Eggs.

**A** LONG the west shore of the Mississippi river, from sixty to eighty miles below St. Louis, and extending a great many miles back into the interior of the state, the staple crop of the farmer is wheat. Some corn is raised too, but it, like the potatoes, turnips and similar products, is consumed mostly at home.

Wheat is, to the farmers of the sections named what cotton is to the Southern planter. It is their reserve fund, their credit balance, and on it their chief transactions are based. The village merchant, the miller and the blacksmith all favor and credit the farmer, and wait till the wheat crop comes in, for him to settle up.

Nearly everything else he can produce is required at home, but of wheat he strives to have a surplus, with which to pay for the necessities of life, which he cannot gather from his farm.

But, it requires a great deal of hard work to raise wheat, and a good crop is not a surety, occasionally poor crops come and then the farmer gets behind. Two bad crops in succession necessitates borrowing money, with its attendant evils, outstanding notes and mortgages.

We export wheat and import eggs, and while the price of the latter holds its own, the price of wheat seems to grow a little lower each year.

Either the home consumption and the export demand do not equal the general yield, or else the speculators manipulate the market so as to enrich themselves, and impoverish the farmer.

Wheat is a product that can be monopolized and cornered, and as long as the farmer makes wheat his specialty he will be at the mercy of the monopolist and the speculator.

What is true of the section of the country we refer to, is likewise true of the wheat growing region in general. It is a bad policy to make a specialty of anything that can be controlled by speculators.

Now, it should be borne in mind that the

#### POULTRY PRODUCT CANNOT BE MONOPOLIZED.

Fowls and eggs are both very perishable, hence the speculators cannot handle them. The poultry industry is bound, for this very reason, to remain in the hands of the multitude, and be regulated by the law of demand and supply, in its most natural operation. This fact makes it safe to raise poultry and eggs, both of which are in urgent demand, and for cash in every locality.

As to the relative cost of wheat and fowls, or wheat and eggs, the figures are in favor of the latter.

In the section of country first named, fifteen bushels of wheat to the acre is an average crop. This wheat is sold at about seventy five cents a bushel from first hands. It costs tully twenty five cents a bushel to produce it, that is from sowing the seed to the delivery to the mill. This leaves the farmer a net profit of \$7.50 per acre. At this rate, a crop of twenty acres, which is the average size for the small farmer, makes a net income for the year, of \$150 from the wheat crop. This is a very liberal estimate, and far in excess of some year's crop.