

THE LOCATION OF THE INCUBATOR.

Much depends upon the location of the incubator, for the reason that influences external to the incubator may influence the hatch. The incubator-cellar should be well ventilated, thus providing for an abundant supply of oxygen for the developing chicks. Although fresh air is essential, direct draughts through the cellar should be avoided. The cellar should be clean and sweet smelling.

The most successful incubator-rooms are built half in the ground and half above ground, because of the more equable temperature obtained. A house 4 feet in the ground and 3 or 4 feet above makes an ideal place for the incubator. Where this is not possible, the incubator-house should be built on the north side of a house, barn, or building, and the windows placed on the north side.

A house-cellar, providing it is sweet and clean, may be utilized. However, where so done, it is advisable to apply to the fire insurance company for permission, as some companies will not allow incubators to be operated in a house-cellar or room.

THE OPERATION OF THE INCUBATOR.

The degree of success in incubation depends to a great extent upon the operation of the incubator for the first week. It may be well to point out that it is very desirable, especially for amateurs, to follow the directions of the manufacturer more or less closely. It is very important that the thermometer used is absolutely correct, and should be tested before setting the machine. Most druggists or opticians will test thermometers free, or for a nominal sum.

The incubator should be started a few days before the eggs are to be placed in the egg-chamber, so that a temperature of 103 degrees may be readily maintained. The temperature which the thermometer should register, however, depends somewhat upon its position in the incubating-chamber. The eggs should not be placed in the incubator until a fairly uniform temperature has been maintained. An important factor which has to do with the maintaining of a uniform temperature is the flame.



Small colony houses in use at the Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore. The writer would substitute cloth or glass for the hinged board shutters, preferably one of each kind.