

cloth over the eggs while cooling them will prevent too rapid cooling.

Operating an incubator is somewhat similar to all other poultry work, as it requires the same attention to detail. These brief suggestions are intended to convey this idea and also to help the inexperienced over some of the difficulties or problems that arise in artificial incubation.

CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SETTING HEN

Instructions on the care of the setting hen and how to handle her would almost appear unnecessary, and yet many persons seem to have poor hatches on account of improper handling.

Usually the lighter breeds are very poor sitters, and also make very poor mothers, the heavier breeds like the Rocks, Wyandottes, Reds and Orpingtons generally are the best sitters and the best mothers. Brahmas, Langshans and Cochins although good sitters and mothers, are almost too heavy and clumsy to hatch and rear chickens. It is also a more difficult matter to keep them clean on account of the immense growth of feathers on the legs and also the length of the body plumage. Lice usually are more troublesome on these birds than on others.

Having secured a good broody hen, she should be removed to a darkened nest having a few inches of earth in the bottom and some straw on top of this. Put a few eggs in the nest and gently set her on these. Cover the nest and leave her alone for a few hours. A good plan is to move her at night. As soon as she takes to her new duties, remove the eggs and put in about thirteen good ones. The room should be large enough to hold about fifteen or twenty setting hens and the nests should be arranged in rows quite close to the floor. All the hens should be taken off the nests in the morning before breakfast and fed and watered. After breakfast usually they will be back on the nests. By having the nests close together there is very little danger of having two hens going on the same nest. This is the common reason for broken eggs in the nests. Thoroughly dust each hen with insect powder before setting and repeat the application a day or so before hatching time. Generally hens having hatched chickens in previous years will prove the best sitters. Pullets are always inclined to hug the eggs at hatching time or sit down on them too tight, thus crushing the chicks when they hatch. Provide a good dust bath made out of sand, lime and ashes, and add a little insect powder.

REARING CHICKS

The system of raising chicks ordinarily followed on the farm is to put a certain number of chicks with the hen, and place the hen in a coop by herself. Where an incubator is used to hatch the chicks, a brooder is generally used to raise them. Where such is the case a portable colony house shown in Fig. 6, would be the best thing to raise them in. A lamp box can be attached to the outside of the house and a hover placed inside. It can then be hauled to any part of the farm, or along