

## POULTRY DEPT.

Conducted by  
S. Short, Ottawa

Hatching for the season should be completed by June 20. Chicks hatched after that date may be classed as late. Many failures in the poultry fraternity may be traced to the late chickens. They do not make sufficient growth, either of frame or feathers, to stand the cold nights of early September, especially chicks of the large breeds. The consequence is, if they escape disease, that they mature prematurely, and one has a flock of birds half to three-quarters the size they should be, and in most cases fowl that are never profitable and certainly not fit for breeding.

It is the late chick that is first to take disease which, if not noticed at once, is speedily communicated to the rest of the fowls, and disaster and fatalities take the place of eggs and profit for that season. Again, July chicks

do very well as long as they are in the brooders or with the hen; after that, the tendency is for them to huddle together at night for warmth in the corners of the room or wherever they may be quartered. This results in serious and permanent injury to the weaker birds. The outside chicks of the bunch are continually scrambling over the backs of the inner and under ones, much in the manner of the scrimmage men in a game of Rugby, and with the same effect. The half-grown feathers are rubbed or scratched off, and the skin on their backs is torn and bleeding; I have frequently seen 50% of a late hatch in this condition, the chicks without a feather on them when two months old and over, and their owner wondering why the feathers did not grow.

The only excusable reasons for hatching later than the time given in the beginning of this article is, when there are no other fowl on the premises, a small number may be hatched and be successfully reared, having the benefit of the whole accommodation and receiving special attention, or by the professional poultry men who hatch every month of the year, having special plants for this purpose.

If at all feasible, chickens of all ages should be separated from the laying hens. Chickens require feeding oftener than the old birds. There are several grain mixtures sold by dealers made up especially for growing chickens that are excellent. They consist of cracked corn, rice, millet seed, peas and a little fine mica grit, making a splendid food for the chickens, but too expensive to feed to old birds. The chicks eat so little for the first six weeks that the cost is trifling; after that time, they may safely be put on the cheap ordinary grains.

A meeting of the directors of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition was held on May 9. The following are the officers for the ensuing year: R. J. Score, president; W. H. Bunting, 1st vice-president; H. R. Frankland, 2nd vice-

president; H. B. Cowan, secretary; J. H. Dunlop, treasurer; and an executive committee composed of the foregoing and J. Chambers and P. W. Hodgetts.

### Arsenate of Lead

Ed. THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST: We note in your May issue, in an article on spraying by T. B. Revett, that one application of arsenate of lead would be sufficient. Being manufacturers of Swift's arsenate of lead, we are interested in what he states. We think, however, that one application, except in special cases, is not enough, as new surfaces due to the growth of the tree are being exposed as the season advances. We do claim, however, that two or three sprayings may be omitted if Swift's arsenate of lead is used.—Merrimac Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

[Note.—An error occurred in the publication of the article referred to. It was intended to state that the manufacturers of arsenate of lead claim that an application of the material will remain on the trees throughout the season, but that two or more applications will give better results.—Editor.]

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