

believed to be true as to the judging at the Ontario, and I have not changed my mind on the subject. I did not "libel" the poultry industry of this country. I did not say we do not raise as high-scoring birds in this country as in the States. If Mr. Haycock will compare the scores of the Ontario show with the scores of shows in Eastern and Western States, by the judges whom I named, he will likely see the force of my statement. As to the insinuations and innuendoes contained in Mr. Haycock's letter, I pass them by as unworthy of notice. Time is too precious and life too short.

FANCIER.

### NURSING ARTIFICIALLY HATCHED CHICKENS.

BY W. HAY, CORRIE, ARRAN, SCOTLAND.

**POSITION OF NURSE.**—Although we have reared strong broods of chickens in an outhouse with an earth floor, we have learned from experience that they thrive better in the open air. Choose a grassy spot for the nurse, with a south aspect, and sheltered as far as possible from the prevailing winds. As the grass soon becomes soiled, the nurse should be removed to a fresh spot every two or three weeks, and this will be a very easy matter if it be provided with handles. If chickens, hatched under hens are to be reared in this way they should be thoroughly dusted with an insect-killing powder before being put with chickens artificially hatched.

**REMOVING CHICKENS TO NURSE.**—When the chickens are transferred from the incubator to the nurse the temperature of the latter should be about 100° F. Generally there are a few weak ones in the hatch, and you will find they will improve faster by being kept in the drying box of the incubator for a couple of days, having their wants supplied there. If a chicken has a sore with blood appearing, it should be at once isolated, as its companions show no mercy and will literally peck it to death. The most important requirements of young chickens reared artificially are, warmth, cleanliness, fresh air, and judicious feeding.

**WARMTH.**—For the first two or three days, after they are transferred to the artificial mother, a temperature of 100° F. should be maintained day and night. A thermometer should not be used, as it is desirable that you should learn to know the heat of the apartment, by applying your hand to the water-tank. From the fourth day, the temperature may be gradually lowered a few degrees daily, until 75° is reached. Advantage should be taken of the sunshine, whenever it is available, and from the very first, the brood exposed to the genial warmth. At the age of three weeks, the heat may be withdrawn during the day in all but severe weather, and applied only in the evening. Discretion must

be used when the heat should be increased or diminished, and the behaviour of the chickens themselves will be the best criterion. When they remain in the sleeping room for a long time during the day, it is a sign that a little more heat is necessary; but when they seek artificial heat only for ten or fifteen minutes after long exercise, you may be assured they are in good health. Too much heat is injurious, and it is more easy to overheat a number of chickens than the same number of eggs. But while too much heat is hurtful, we must be careful, especially at night, not to have the temperature too low, as they will crowd together for warmth, and the weaker ones will run the risk of suffocation.

Fifty chickens is quite sufficient to keep in one company in health, in fact, with only the half of that number you will have a better chance to raise them all.

**CLEANLINESS.**—It is very important that the surroundings of chickens be kept scrupulously clean if they are to develop into vigorous fowls. The inside of the nurse should be well lime washed, when it is being prepared for the reception of each fresh brood, and the floor thoroughly scrubbed out weekly.

**LEG WEAKNESS.**—Chickens that are kept for a length of time on a wooden floor become affected with a disease of the legs. The claws being unable to penetrate the wood, the muscles of the legs and feet are deprived of freedom of action, and soon stiffen. To prevent this, fine earth is introduced, which has been passed through a sieve to free it from small stones. Fresh earth must be substituted for this daily, as disease is often produced by the chickens picking up food, which has been contaminated by their own excrement.

**FRESH AIR.**—A copious supply of fresh air is as essential to chickens as to ourselves. Very often the nurse is allowed to sweat at night, when all the benefit the chickens have derived during the day from exercise and good feeding is lost.

**FEEDING.**—No food is required for the first twenty-four or thirty-six hours, as the chickens absorb the yolk into their system just before leaving the shell. Do not be over-anxious, therefore, to give them their first meal, as warmth and rest are as important.

**FOOD FOR FIRST TWO DAYS.**—The first feed should consist of two-thirds of coarse oatmeal and one-third crumbs of stale bread, mixed together dry, and moistened with an egg until it is in a crumbling state.

**FIRST MEAL.**—Sprinkle a little of the food among the chickens and on their backs, and most of them will begin to feed at once without trouble. The attention of any one that is not feeding may be attracted by dropping a little food on its bill and just in front of it. If a chicken at the