

where she is brooding. If you have failed to make their nests in the yard or building prepared for them, it is best to leave the bird to finish her litter in the nest she has selected. A few days after she has begun to brood, remove her to a secure place in the yard or shed where you want her to sit. Put a coop over the nest, with movable slats in front, so that she can be fastened on her nest and let her out at pleasure, and put a few addled or artificial eggs in the nest, until the bird gets wonted to her new quarters. Remove her from her old nest at night and fasten her upon her new nest, and keep her caged for three or four days. She will not suffer in that time for want of food or water. Remove the board from the front of the coop, and watch for her first coming off, about the middle of a pleasant day. You may have to drive her back and cage her for a few times, but she will soon accept her new quarters, and sit as quietly as the other hens near her. It may require some painstaking and watching to effect the change of base, but it can always be accomplished.

It sometimes happens, in the process of incubation, that eggs are broken by the hen as she turns them over to equalize the heat. Her instinct leads her to remove the broken egg and to keep her nest clean; but she cannot always keep the raw egg from the shells of the remaining eggs. This matter should be looked after every day when the hens come from their nests, for the albumen and yolk will stop the pores of the live eggs and kill them. While the turkey is off, wash off the fouled eggs with warm water, wipe them clean, and after putting in some hay, put the eggs carefully back again into the nest. This is a frequent cause of failure in the hatching of the eggs, and should have careful attention. If the turkeys have had plenty of broken oyster and clam shells during the laying season, or have been fed with a little lime mixed in the dough, they will generally make thick-shelled eggs and escape this trouble. It saves a great deal of time in watching for this and other causes of damage while the hens are brooding, to have the nests in one yard, or near to one another. Generally the sitting hens will come off about the same time of day and it will take but a few minutes at this time to examine every nest, and ascertain if any eggs have been broken and everything is going on satisfactorily.

The period of incubation lasts thirty days, and on the thirty-first you may listen for the evidence of new life on the nest. The old bird is expecting the advent, and answers the first peep from the broken shell with a soft, tremulous sound expressing her anxious emotions. This touching and plaintive note, so expressive of maternal sympathy, is continued as the chicks one after another break out of their shells, and thrust their heads into her

soft feathers for warmth and protection. If the incubation has gone on prosperously, they will break the shell within a few hours of each other. If the mother bird has been used to your presence, there will be no difficulty in approaching the nest at this time, and examining the chicks. Generally nothing needs to be done but to remove the shells, and this the hen will often attend to herself. The chief damage at this time is from the stepping of the bird upon the chicks; but if they come out strong, they are generally safer in the nest than elsewhere. If any are removed from the nest to the house for safe keeping, they should be restored to the mother again at night. They need no food for the first day after hatching, and you only need to feed the hen while she remains on the nest.

If the weather is favorable, they should be removed from the nest on the day following the hatching, or when the last chick is a day old. If the turkey is gentle you can take the most of the brood from under the hen, and put them in a basket before she will move. If she is uneasy and likely to flutter, and injure the young, catch the old bird first by the legs, and catch the chicks afterwards. To guard against lice, wash the old turkey on the underside of the wings and on the body with a strong decoction of tobacco. This will do no harm if she is free from vermin, and will be sure to kill them, if she has them. If the young turkeys get lousy, put on ointment made of yellow snuff and grease, on the under side of the wings, and naked parts of the body. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure in this case. If they are drooping and act sleepy, you may know there is trouble. Yard them immediately. Examine every bird, and apply the snuff ointment. You cannot expect to raise a large flock of turkeys without careful attention to little things. It is a good plan to mix a little sulphur with the dough occasionally, which is distasteful to the parasites that infest them.

When first taken off, the chicks should be confined, while the mother has her liberty. I have never found anything better for this period of their lives, than a pen made of boards a foot wide, twelve or fourteen feet in length, and set up edgewise in the form of a triangle. A short board laid across the corners will make a good shelter in case of rain. The hen may be left at liberty. She will not go far from her brood, and it will be several days before they will be strong enough to get over the top of the board fence. Set a shallow pan in the yard, and see that it is supplied with fresh water every morning, and with a dough made of coarse ground Indian meal, fine chopped boiled eggs and new milk, or other suitable food. They do not want a great deal of food, but want it often after they begin to eat. They may be kept con-