

Brooder House, Kingston, R. I.

The brooder house shown above is the principal building of the kind at the R I exper sta poultry farm. It is of the continuous pattern, separated into small pens by wire netting, the main building being rather high and with a double roof. High buildings cost more than low ones, but are much easier to keep at an even temperature. All styles of brooders are being tried, from small ones heated by kerosene lamp to the large apartments heated by steam or hot water.

The Poultry Yard.

WARM COOP FOR CHICKS.

The cut shows a desirable coop for very early chickens. The coop is long and sloping and has a hinged sash hinged to the top. The higher half of

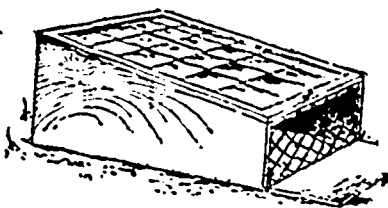


FIG 1. OUTSIDE.

the coop has a tight bottom with slats at its inner edge, as shown in Fig 2. There is no bottom to the rest of the coop, and the lower end has a hinged

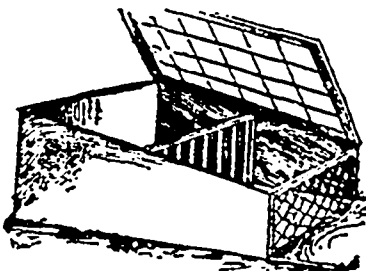


FIG 2. INSIDE OF COOP.

door, and is also covered with one inch mesh of wire netting.

When very cold, the door can be shut up tight and the chicks will have a warm run on the ground outside the slats. When it is warmer the end door can be dropped, giving a protected run, but plenty of fresh air. The hen can be let out into this run when desired. A cloth can be thrown over the glass at night when the weather is cold.

RAISING EARLY CHICKENS.

For the farm in this climate March hatching is early enough to secure well-grown cockerels for the fall shows and pullets for next winter's layers. However desirable it may be to have early birds, nothing will be gained by anticipating the natural order of spring, unless prepared with certain fixtures needful for the comfort and health of the young birds as well as the mother hen.

For success in early and all chicken raising, I would name as positively necessary the following: comfortable housing and judicious feeding during the winter to prepare the hen for her best work as an early layer. Birds stimulated to be great layers in winter will not furnish the best eggs for successful chicken raising in spring. Feeding for eggs for incubation should begin about a month before the eggs are wanted for the purpose. Then, if properly mated, the first sitting of eggs will furnish the most vigorous chicks of the season and the frequent failure of the first clutch to hatch is from the fact that the hens have been fed too high or on fat-forming food, resulting in infertile eggs or weak chicks. In this case the second clutch of eggs may be

all right after the hen has worked off her surplus fat.

The sitting hen should be moved from her nest as soon as she becomes a persistent sitter to a place by herself. I have one room 10x12, three sides of which are boxed in on the floor with partitions, to separate the nests, about one foot square, with sliding doors. On a few china eggs the hen sits until we have two or three well-established sitters, and place the eggs under all at the same time and at hatching I put all the chicks with one hen or in the brooder and these idle hens, if they have been well cared for, can take each another sitting. Every morning at a regular time these sitting hens are pulled off their nests for feed and water and exercise and put back again in ten to twenty minutes, and fastened in for the next 24 hours. They do not leave the room at all. Early chicks will stand lots of cold weather if they can run in often to be brooded.

They should have free access to a dry feed of cracked corn and oatmeal, and as soon as they can swallow whole wheat let them have a supply daily and twice a week some table scraps, finely chopped raw cabbage or boiled potatoes and skim milk for variety, with pure water at all times and a little dish of sharp sand to pick at. All feeding should be in narrow troughs, so they cannot scratch it out, or get into it very much, and all vessels as well as the coop or brooder should be kept clean and sweet. Feed regularly, but don't overfeed. Warm and dry coops are a positive necessity in raising early chicks. Very much of success in this line lies in supplying the conditions which are furnished by nature later in the season, when the chicks can have the free run of the yard and grass plot.—[Mrs J. C. Plumb, Wis.]

TURKEY TALK.

The Mammoth Bronze turkey is considered the most healthy it is not necessary to house turkeys. If they can be kept in a sheltered place where they roost they will be all right. No doubt on a plain where the wind blows and there is no shelter it would be well to put them in an open building facing the south. Corn and oats are the best foods for turkeys.

One of the main things to guard against is not to keep your turkeys too fat. The majority of turkeys are usually too fat to be healthy. It is not necessary to give them warm water to drink. The quicker turkey eggs are set after being laid, the better. You can keep them several days, however. There is no way to test an egg laid by a turkey, or any other egg for that matter, until after placing it under a heat of 100 to 103 degrees for at least 24 hours. The present price of turkeys depends entirely on where they were raised and of what quality. Prices in Feb ranged from 12 to 30c per lb. One of the best ways to keep vermin out of a poultry house is to paint all the parts that can possibly be painted, at least once a year with crude carbolic acid.—[J. F. Crangle, N. Y.]

For Early Poult—The directions I or anyone else may give about turkey-rearing will seem impracticable after trial to the careless, sloppy class who fall in everything. Turkeys require a more tender nursing than chicks or ducks. A large warm, dry place must

be given the mother turkey with her brood. Emphatically it is the first requisite, after which the food and manner of administering must be considered. Fresh water or milk, always with the cold edge taken off, should be within easy reach of the little ones and kept free from dirt and litter. Feed the first week the curd of milk mixed with one-third its bulk of hard boiled egg. Then some corn meal may be add-



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