

tions" in some seed catalogue or almanac. Yet many of these same people would declare that they were quite competent to run an incubator successfully after reading the directions sent with it.

TRY AND BUILD A PROPER PLACE.

If you find that you cannot keep the temperature in the egg chamber within one or two degrees of 103 you had best find a better place for it, or else line the room with heavy building paper. I know that a great many people insist on running their incubator in their dwelling, but, as I said in my former article, it is not a good plan to do so. A small house built especially for it will not cost much, and is by far the best place for it. By the free use of waterproof building paper such a house can be made absolutely waterproof and almost air tight. After it is once built it is good for years.

A few days ago a man who annually raises a large number of chickens said, "I like to hatch chickens with hens best of all, but when you have plenty of eggs and it is time to be getting out your first lot of chicks the hens are too busy laying to sit; and unless you have an incubator you are left." This man begins selling chickens in April, and from that time until nearly the first of November he sells from one to five dozen a week. He says he gets a higher price per pound for his early chicks than he does for his later ones, but his profits are about the same on all, because the early hatched ones cost more than the later ones. This has been my experience exactly.

By beginning early with an incubator you get into market four to eight weeks sooner than if you depended on hens alone and thus your marketing is lengthened considerably and your yearly income correspondingly increased.

If you live in town of course your yards are protected from the cold winds by surrounding buildings, and your harvest is early spring. You should get your incubator started as soon as you can get eggs at a reasonable price. Your object should be to get your chicks on the market before those from the farms come in.

But to return to the subject I began on: buy your incubator now, if you want to succeed with it and make it a paying investment. Buy from a reliable firm, one that makes a machine for practical use instead of to sell. Study it, get acquainted with it before you try to do business with it, and ten chances to one you will succeed in doing well with it.

PROFITABLE POULTRY KEEPING.

BY T. A. WILLIAMS, TORONTO, ONT.

(Continued.)

THIS is the season to lay in the winter supplies of vegetable food, such as potatoes, turnips, onions and cabbage, this vegetable food is necessary to the health and thrifty condition of the laying stock. There should also be a good supply of dry earth put up in a shed before the fall rains set in as then it cannot be saved.

Now see that all the broken windows in the fowl house are fixed and nail on any loose battens that may show themselves, in short this is the time to prepare for winter, that long dreary season of the year for fowls, when they will be simply a bill of expense unless they are intelligently looked after, in this case they may be made to pay well for the attention bestowed on them.

The entire stock of fowls and chickens on the place must now be closely culled. There should not be an old hen or cock left on the place except extra fine specimens which should be reserved for breeding purposes only, all the rest should be disposed of at once, the main dependence for market eggs should be on the pullets, it has been demonstrated over and over again that well matured pullets will beat two year old hens as egg producers therefore nothing else should be kept for this purpose. There are doubtless exceptional cases where two year old hens will lay as well as the average pullet, but the exception is not to be depended upon, it is the rule of average that counts. These extra good laying old hens should be kept for breeding, they are the most valuable birds wherewith to perpetuate the species.

The young stock must also be rigorously culled, all late hatched and immature pullets and cockerels should be sent to market to be converted into pot pies and such savoury dishes, they are of no use for anything else and for this purpose are exceedingly toothsome. Now select the best matured pullets those of good size whose combs show indications that they are fast approaching laying condition. These birds should be placed in the pens they are intended to occupy all winter and should be permitted the run of the yard on every fine day but should be kept in on wet stormy days, they should be fed animal food three times a week, such as cut bone, boiled liver, lights or blood. Three times a week will be often enough to start with as a too free use of such food is liable to produce diarrhoea, a feed of wheat in the morning thrown into litter of some sort to make them scratch for it, a feed of vegetable stuff at noon,