

mon. The sloppy piece of ground dirty and out of the way, any odd corner was good enough, has been the corner stone of the handsome poultry houses that now adorn many of the grounds at our annual fairs. Let us not then despise the humble efforts made in the past by the lovers of our feathered friends. To those who took the trouble to bring "the best they had" is due the credit of keeping up the interest in poultry culture, till something better could be obtained and I fancy none of us take a "red" now with any more pride than those in past days saw the piece of red or blue cotton or paper, tacked on the cumbersome, ugly looking boxes that contained the prize winners of their day and generation.

The farmer and the farmer's wife, are now deeply interested in the poultry departments, they prepare to leave some other special attraction, if time presses. But, "we *must* see the chickens, I promised Joe I would tell him if there was any like his there," was one of the remarks I heard at the last Industrial. And so it is with them all, they must go and see the poultry house, even if the "art gallery," is deserted to do so. We trust that many exhibition committees will put up a covered shed for the poultry this fall, and not leave the birds exposed to the changes of weather as often is the case.

For the Poultry Weekly.

Incubators a Success.

DEAR Bee Man:—In answer to your excited query re incubators, allow me to say: 1. Yes lots of prize birds, far handsomer in plumage and healthier than many raised under hens. 2. A brooder needs a supplement in the way of a careful poultry man to feed etc.; then I will say yes again, freer from vermin and crooked feet than any hen-raised lot. 3. Many, if not a majority of English prize birds are now raised in this way; the advantage being that in England they can be reared successfully in Jan. and Feb., nearly two months ahead of hen-raised broods, and in greater numbers.

I can thoroughly recommend Hearson's Champion Incubator and either Hot Fine or Hydrothermic Mother, having used them successfully myself. I am not interested in its sale nor any machines of the kind, but will

guarantee it to do all the manufacturers claim for it with any attendant who has the brains of an intelligent child of ten. I have known children of twelve to hatch 80 per cent. of fertile eggs with it, and raise the chicks afterwards as well.

REV. ROBT. W. RAYSON.

Lombardy, Ont.

We are very glad to receive such a favorable account of the incubator referred to in the above from Mr. Rayson, and will be pleased to receive a description and engravings. Mr. Rayson's experience only bears out that of other successful men. Incubators are indeed one of the necessities of the age, and good brooders also, but these are only mechanical contrivances; they want brains and energy at their back, just as any other artificial system for superseding Dame Nature's plans. We can rear an infant on the bottle plan successfully, but we must provide the required elements for sustaining life and augmenting growth. etc., and our artificial raising of chicks is as much dependent on our thoughtful care after they are hatched, as a baby's life is dependent on its nurse's tender watchfulness.

Cost of Keeping Hens.

THERE is a great dearth of reliable information regarding the actual cost of keeping hens, especially among farmers and those who do not make poultry raising a specialty, although there seems to be no very good reason for this condition of things. While there may be a variety of elements that enter into the question of actual cost they are not of that character that need prevent coming to a satisfactory conclusion. Perhaps farmers are inclined to overestimate the food consumed, and to underestimate the real income in assuming that hens cost more than they come to. It must be remembered that with a flock of say one hundred hens the amount of capital invested is very light in comparison with other departments of farming, and that proportionately the percentage of income might be expected to be small, but is this always the case? We have in mind a neighbor who kept about one hundred hens, and at the end of the year he made the assertion that the broilers sold, amounting to about \$60, had paid the entire expense of keeping, and that the eggs sold amounting to \$70, was all clear profit, allowing the manure made to offset the labor and time