

Warm air always rises, hence if the machine is higher at one end than the other, that end will be warmer than the lower one. Care should also be taken to place the machine so that the sun's rays will never strike it. Use only high grade kerosene in the lamp. Light it and heat up the machine to 103 degrees, depending on the kind of thermometer that is used. Be sure the thermometer is correct by first testing it along side an accurate instrument. The way to test an incubator thermometer is to take an ordinary thermometer, graduated sufficiently wide to get the freezing and the boiling points, and place it in a pan of snow, being careful to have the snow packed close around the bulb. When placed in the snow in this way it should register exactly 32 degrees, or freezing. Afterwards place this thermometer and the incubator thermometer in warm water, about 98 to 110 degrees. Then compare the two and note if they register the same. If they do not record the same, make your deductions accordingly, and then place the incubator thermometer back to the machine. A good many poor hatches in incubators are due to inaccurate thermometers, which may mean overheating or else not sufficient heat.

There are three different kinds of thermometers in common use—the hang up thermometer, the contact and the egg thermometer.

The last named is enclosed in a celluloid egg and registers the temperature inside the egg which should be 100½ to 101½ degrees.

The contact thermometer is placed among the eggs so that it will not touch any, and it should register 103 degrees. Considerable difficulty will be experienced if the bulb happens to touch an infertile egg because it will then register a few degrees lower than the real temperature; so be careful not to have it touching any eggs at all until after the first test.

The hang-up thermometer is generally placed an inch or so higher than the eggs, and the machine is usually run at about 103 or 105 degrees, depending on the location of the instrument.

Of the three thermometers the "Inovo" or egg thermometer is probably the best, as there is no danger whatever of having it misplaced, or influenced in any way by coming in contact with the eggs.

After the machine is brought up to the proper temperature, the heat regulator should be adjusted properly, and the eggs placed in the machine. It will take about twenty-four hours to bring the temperature back again to where it was previous to placing in the eggs. The thermostat adjustments should be so made that the regulator will rise immediately the heat goes higher than it is supposed to be. In placing the eggs on the tray, have them all lying on the side in their natural position as much as possible, and do not crowd the tray.

The eggs will require no turning for the first thirty-six or forty-eight hours, and after that they should be turned regularly twice a day until hatching time. But very little ventilation will be required the first nine days, and no cooling whatever will be necessary, except what they