

and dust the hen previous to setting her, with the same. The fever that causes a hen to brood is a powerful factor in the vermin interest, and it is a wonderful thing to see how they will breed on poor Biddy's heated body if not forestalled by the powder. Do not depend on sprinkling the hens with sulphur; it has no power to destroy the vermin. Let there be a dust box or pan handy for your sitters to dust, when off the nest, and give no soft feed while sitting. Take notice of the hens, which occupy the several nests, and see that they go back to their own quarters. I always close the doors while they are off feeding so they can't exchange nests. If they do not come off when you go to feed them of their own accord, lift them off, so that you can attend to all at one time. If they are savage, you will bear some slight scars perhaps, but are they not honorable? Well, "you bet" they are.

#### INCUBATOR AND BROODER CHICKS.

IF you have never raised chicks in a brooder, you do not know one-half of the interest that attaches to the life of a poultry man. In early spring in this northern district, a good brooder is the only safeguard of the early hatches. Do not let anyone persuade you that brooders are a failure. Besides caring for the chicks better than the most intelligent hen could do in cold weather, they are entirely free from lice. The chicks are so tame that it is the greatest pleasure to attend to their small wants; they run to greet their kind friend and provider so quickly without a trace of fear; they have not had a warning note sounded every time they wished to make our acquaintance, and we see the effect in the perfect trust reposed in us. I will, it possible, in the near future, give the plan of the brooder I am using, or rather the only one of three I am using that is not patented; any one handy with tools can make it at a trifling cost. Here is my incubator experience so far. Notwithstanding a great deal of disappointment experienced years ago with one of these machines, I decided to try again, and have been so successful that sitting hens are (except to hatch Bantams) going to be at a discount with me. My incuba-

tor is not due till to-morrow night, and here I have at noon to-day already about thirty handsome, lively chicks, and others pipping every little while. I once read an account of incubator and brooder chicks looking so mournful and disconsolate that the writer was tempted to murder them to put them out of their misery. But he, like Mr. Gallagher of immortal fame, can mean-der, for a livelier lot of orphans cannot exist than those I have hatched and raised in my dear, dear incubator and brooder. I have had good success with my brooder for some years, but this is the first real pleasure I have felt in an incubator.

#### BANTAMS.

SURELY there is nothing prettier in all the poultry-world than a flock of sprightly, saucy, plucky little Bantams. How beautiful their rich coloring and *petite* figures, and as they step so proudly and daintily they almost seem to be asking your attention and admiration. A Bantam hen with chicks is a delightful thing to see. How fussy she is; how she spreads out every feather in her desire to make you notice her brood—but, daring you to touch them. How she will protect them even to her hearts last beat. Pretty, patient, miniature mother; what a lesson to our so often careless ones.

But let us not forget as we consider their beauty, that they are also a great deal more useful than is generally supposed. They are very good layers of rich eggs, and not so small by any means, as may be imagined. The eggs are rarely unfertile, except in a few very fancy breeds, where in-breeding has to be largely resorted to.

The Game Bantams are very hardy in all varieties. And did you ever eat a Game Bantam pie? If not, oh! I pity you. There is a dish to "set before the king." They are as full in breast as a partridge, and quite as good a flavor. To my mind a nicely cooked Game Bantam is far superior to partridge, but then being "Hinglish, yer know," my game fancy may predominate. Still I would like some of you to try it and let us know.

Canvassers should read our offer on another page.