

dow in front that they may see to feed and amuse themselves inside on a wet day when it would be unsafe to give them liberty. The front, top and bottom are kept in position by hooks and eyes that they may be easily removed to get the whole interior thoroughly cleaned and lime-washed. Dry earth to the depth of two inches will keep their feet from injury and give them the means of exercise.

Disturb the mother as little as possible for the first two or three days, warmth and rest being very essential for the brood. The mother hen generally assumes an attitude of defiance when she is approached even by the hand that feeds her, and this, we consider, is an undesirable state of matters, from which harm to her family often comes.

This is the result of mismanagement on the part of the poultry attendant, and could be prevented by visiting the hen frequently when she is sitting, with offerings of dainty food. The hen will appreciate these little acts of kindness, and not regard you with suspicion and distrust.

The sitting hen is generally looked upon as being a very obstinate creature, whose wishes must be respected in the selection of her nest and other matters, but we have generally found her agreeable to hatch where we desired her, and also to nurse artificially-hatched chickens when her services were required.

We believe that this favorable opinion is not held by us alone, but that all poultry-keepers who take an interest in their fowls and treat them in a sensible fashion, have had experience with sitting hens similar to our own.

We have a very obliging hen at present which "adopted" three broods in succession last season, without going through any preliminary business of sitting at all. Such a hen is a valuable adjunct to a poultry yard. At the end of July, two years ago, we distributed fifty chickens hatched artificially, among three hens, two of which had occupied a nest for one day only, and the third but for a few hours. In the evening a few chickens were put under them, and being kindly received, the others were added and the eggs withdrawn. These hens were removed with their families to coops on the following day, and discharged the duties they had undertaken faithfully.

HORN SCALE—At the point of a chicken's bill may be observed a little hard scale, which the chicken uses as a lever to extricate itself from the shell. Some thoughtless people remove this whenever they are hatched, which there is no need to do, as it drops off when the chicken is a few days old.

TREATMENT OF HEN—For the first week she should be kept in confinement, the chickens being allowed, when the ground is dry, to go out and in at pleasure. When they are

a week old, the hen might be tethered in such a position that the coop would afford her shelter if at any time it were needed. It is unwise to give her full liberty until the chickens are a few weeks old, as in her anxiety to discover insects for them they would be exposed to many dangers.

FOOD—The first feed should consist of two-thirds of coarse oatmeal and one-third crumbs of stale bread, mixed together dry, and moistened with an egg until it is in a crumbling state. This should be put before the mother, and she will assist her offspring to it. After the second day the diet should consist of a little maize meal, mixed with the oatmeal and breadcrumbs. To this should be added a little green food, chopped fine, and some grated boiled liver will be a good substitute for insect food, until the mother is allowed to roam with them at will. A little sharp grit and a pinch of salt must not be forgotten, and the whole mixed together in a dry state. If the egg, to moisten the dry food, be now discontinued, a little milk might be used instead; but if water be employed, it must be recently boiled. The food must not be sloppy, but of such a consistency that when pressed in the hand it will crumble readily. They should be fed at intervals of two or three hours for the first month, getting at a time only as much as they will eat greedily.

They will thrive better if a little underfed at times. It is a healthy sign when they run to meet the poultry-feeder at meal time.

LATE FEEDING FOR BREAKFAST—During the summer a little food should be put into the coop late at night, that the chickens may have a little breakfast early in the morning before you are astir.

GRAIN—During the second week a little crushed grain should be given and less soft food, and this will strengthen the digestive organs. Give a little bruised grain with their last feed at night and the internal heat will be maintained for a longer time. On a wet day, when the chickens are confined to the coop, a little crushed barley or wheat should be mixed with the loose earth. This will give them employment, and the exercise will be productive of much good.

WATER—The water for the use of chickens should be kept in a shaded place, and the supply often renewed in warm weather, as the heat of the sun renders it unwholesome.

INSECT FOOD—When the hen is tethered turn up a spade or two of fresh earth to the surface at times, and she will get exercise and animal food for herself and family. A little consideration of this kind will be well repaid by the amusement provided for the chickens.

FEED REGULARLY—The feeding should be done regularly. The habit of throwing a little food to chickens at odd times