

specified might be those recognized as best adapted for the country from the practical farmers' standpoint. This generous action of His Excellency will, of course, be of the utmost value to the association, but the members do not appreciate that more than they do the extremely kind manner in which the Governor General spoke of the objects of the association and of his anxiety to do everything in his power to assist those who are trying to induce farmers and other poultry keepers to keep better poultry in a better and, therefore, more profitable manner.

### POPULAR POULTRY TALKS BY PRACTICAL BREEDERS.

NO. 3.

**U**NDER the above heading it is the purpose of the REVIEW to discuss one leading question in each issue of 1896, and we would ask you to lay your views on each question as concisely as may be, before our readers. Do not fear to write because your spelling or grammar may not be quite up to date. We will gladly see that all errors of this kind are corrected before being printed.

Our question for this month is: Describe your method of hatching either by hens or incubators, especially the former? Give procedure from the time eggs are set to date of hatch.

#### ANSWERS.

*By S. M. Clemo, Galt.*

In setting a hen I use a barrel. Cut out two wide staves between inside two rows of hoops, fill bottom part of barrel level with the hole with some manure or earth that I can form nest in, pound nest hole down solid and rounding, not too deep for if too deep outside eggs roll to centre on top of centre eggs; cover nest with chaff. Having done this I place the hen on some nest eggs for a day or two to make sure she means biz, then give her the eggs proper. The barrel is covered and has a bag or something hanging over the hole to keep her dark, by so doing a dozen hens can be set in a small place. After seeing that she means business she is thoroughly dusted with insect powder and again on the 18th day she is dusted. After the second day on the eggs she is gently lifted off, if she won't come herself, and allowed all the whole corn and water she wants, but usually when the curtain is raised from the hole they will come out after one or two times taken off. A dust bath is placed in centre of room which they usually get into. They also have a box of gravel or mica crystal grit handy. Sitting hens often get bowel trouble, when this happens I make a pill the size of a small egg of dough composed of one part powdered chalk and two parts flour mixed with sufficient water to thicken

stiff. Make up in pieces small enough to pass down the throat, give all at one time, this has never failed to cure. In very severe cases add five drops of laudanum. When chicks are nicely dried off I remove them to brooder. If hen is in good health I give her more eggs, last year I set one hen 12 consecutive weeks and she was heavier at the end of that time than she was when the first three weeks were up. After the eighteenth day the only time and way I trouble the hen is after the chicks start to hatch. I put my hand gently under her, raise her up to see if any shells are there and remove them, often chicks have been smothered by empty shells getting over another egg that has a chick picked through.

*By A. A. Whitteker, Morrisburg.*

I use hens for hatching, and never separate them from the others. I set them where they first sit. As soon as she shows signs of hatching I prepare the nest by putting earth in the bottom with some fine soft straw, or chaff, or other litter, and shape the nest as I think it should be, and after she becomes well settled I give her the eggs, first marking them with a pencil, so that if any of the other hens lay with her I can take the eggs out. It is seldom I have any trouble in that line. I allow them to do as they like in coming off and feeding. They soon learn to come off when I feed the other hens—it is then that I look to see if any eggs have been laid. When they hatch I take the young out as soon as dry and put them in a basket of feathers in the house till all are out. The above plan is the least possible trouble and has been very successful with me.

*By E. D. Dickenson, Barrie.*

I believe there are three component parts of a successful hatch, no matter whether it be with hens or incubator. In the former case they are: First, fertile eggs; second, a good hen; third, proper management. In the latter case, simply substitute incubator for hen.

Now, as I have had very little experience in the management of an incubator, I shall confine myself to my experience with hens. The kind of box I like best is one about 18 x 18 x 18, with a door 18 inches wide, 6 inches from the bottom—this is made of wire gauze and hinged at the bottom, so that when open it forms an approach for the hen; in the back is a ventilator covered with the same wire gauze; the whole when closed forms a rat-proof compartment for the hen. In the bottom of this box I put a fresh sod upside down, on which I make the nest of straw, being careful to fill the corners, and thus prevent any of the eggs getting chilled. After first dusting the hen well with insect powder