

WOMEN'S INTERESTS

"THEIR MARRIED LIFE"

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"Have you ever met Mrs. Billy Brown?" whispered Anne ecstatically as she and Helen settled themselves in their seats. They had come to an afternoon concert at one of the department stores at Anne's suggestion...

Some imperiousness and her husband would naturally adore her. Someone at the piano was playing a rippling accompaniment with flute notes like a forest alive with unseen life...

"Of course you want to meet her, don't you?" said Anne as Mrs. Billy Brown's part of the entertainment was over. "Let's slip on our wraps and go around to the back. I think we'll be able to catch her."

"I have always envied people who did things like that," sighed Helen. "Why couldn't I have been born with a talent? I might have written stories like Frances or sketched like you do, or sung like Mrs. Billy Brown. As it is, I can't do a thing but take care of a house and bring up my daughter."

"Here she comes!" "Here she comes," whispered Anne. "Isn't she dear?" And Helen found herself looking at a tiny little woman dressed in the dark purple gown of some soft clinging material...

(Another instalment in this interesting series of everyday life will appear on this page shortly.)

BROODING CHICKS ARTIFICIALLY THROUGH THE DANGER PERIOD

How to Operate An Incubator to Hatch Chicks That Will Live

Construction and Care of Brooders and Feeding the Chicks

By Frank C. Hare Poultry Husbandman, Clemson College, S. C.

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In the brooding of chicks it is essential that the chicks are properly hatched. This article explains the laws governing incubation during the last three days, and continues with simple directions for the construction and operation of the brooders and the care of the chicks to the time of weaning at about five weeks of age.

A WELL-HATCHED, healthy chick grows himself, is an old saying, which applies to incubator-hatched chicks, for the reason that they do not enjoy maternal attention and protection. To have these healthy chicks to place in the brooder, the operation of the incubator from the eighteenth day to the removal of the brood from the machine must be governed by the laws of Nature. The last three days are most important.

Do not overheat the eggs and chicks at the pipping period. Many operators run their incubators at a temperature of 102 1/2 degrees the first half of the hatch, then gradually increase the heat the remaining ten days until a temperature of about 104 degrees is maintained from the eighteenth day to the close of the hatch. This practice is contrary to nature, and may result in less chicks hatching than when a constant temperature of 102 1/2 degrees is held from beginning to end.

Moisten and soften the membranes (skins) inside the shell of the egg to enable the chick to emerge more readily. Sprinkle the eggs on the eighteenth day of incubation with water of 104 degrees, partially withdrawing the trays and spraying the eggs lightly with a whisk broom. Sprinkle the interior of the egg chamber also, so that the glass in the door is dripping wet.

Maintain this atmosphere of pure, moist air in the egg chamber until the pipping is finished. When the wet chicks are dry and commence to gasp for breath, open the door, partially withdraw an egg tray, remove any dry chicks to the chick chamber underneath the egg chamber, and sprinkle the unhatched and pipped eggs and wet chicks with warm water in the manner previously described.

The great percentage of the embryos that die in the shell at pipping time are killed by the poisonous air of the closed egg chamber. A sitting hen exposes her partially-hatched eggs and chicks without decreasing the hatch; she will stand in the nest and with her beak endeavor to help a chick break the shell and gain freedom.

The ventilation of the egg chamber of an incubator is critical to maintain pure air, and when the chicks gasp for breath, it is not because they are overheated, but because they are suffering for lack of oxygen. This is the signal to open the door, purify the air, and to sprinkle the eggs with warm water to replace the moisture that has escaped. The operation does not require over-ventilation, and should be repeated as often as necessary.

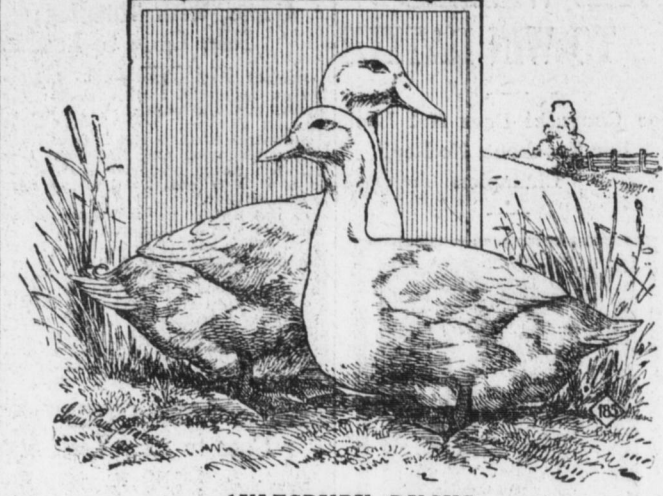
Hang a piece of burlap over the glass in the door of the incubator to darken the interior and prevent the older chicks eating the droppings. Insert a match in the crack of the door and leave the slight opening when the last chick has emerged from the shell to provide more fresh air at this period. Maintain a temperature of 102 above the egg tray, which will give a temperature of about 95 degrees at the lower part where the chicks remain until removed to the brooder.

Do not be in a hurry to take away the chicks; wait until the youngest are dry and strong on their legs. The earliest hatched can remain in the incubator for from 36 to 48 hours, if necessary, without injury if they have sufficient ventilation, are warm, and do not eat any filth. This treatment, of course, would ruin the hatch if the air was foul.

Imitate Natural Brooding Methods Before dealing with the construction and operation of brooders, let us consider the natural brooding of chicks. We cannot improve upon nature and achieve the greatest success, we must understand and abide by her laws. The temperature of the bare breast of the sitting hen is 104 degrees, a much greater heat than the chicks require; the temperature inside the hen's wings is 99.4 degrees, but the chicks are not compelled to remain in either of these places. If they are cold, they can be quickly warmed; if they become too warm, they can push out their head or body and cool off. We should endeavor to obtain this flexible condition in artificial brooding.

Brooder Stoves Are Recommended From the conditions found in natural incubation it would seem that the latest system of brooding chicks, the use of coal-burning or oil-burning brooder stoves that have a temperature of 110 to 120 degrees near the stove and lower temperatures at greater distances, would be more successful than small brooders in which the chicks are kept at a certain heat. The secret of success in brooding chicks is to have some warm place (a hover), to which the chicks may run when cold, and from which they can move into a more moderate temperature when too warm. The brooder should not permit the chicks to select a comfortable heat at all times must be operated by an expert, or the brood will be endangered by being overheated or chilled.

The cost of the coal-burning stove referred to has been reduced, so that it is possible to purchase a reliable stove that broods up to 100 chicks at a moderate price. Such a stove is placed in the center of a room, and if chicks of different ages are brooded, the room is divided by wire partitions 18 inches high into four pens, with the stove at the center corner of each. The different lots hover around the stove at night and will not crowd into the corner because it is too warm



AYLESBURY DUCKS

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The Aylesbury stands at the head of the domestic races of ducks bred in England, probably because of its rapid growth and early maturity. It was the first white domestic duck bred, formerly known as the White English, and in the early part of the last century it became known as the Aylesbury.

It originated in the vale of Aylesbury, and this district bears the same relation to London as does Long Island to the markets of New York City. The difference, however, lies chiefly in the methods of rearing, and, as a rule, the English duckyards are smaller.

The Aylesbury ducks have an almost horizontal carriage; males weigh nine pounds and females eight pounds. The plumage is white, free from tints in undercolor. The bill is large and broad and of pale flesh color, with no trace of yellow. The skin is light pink in color, fading dead white after

three. They prefer to sleep two or three feet from the stove.

How to Make a Brooder A simple brooder can be made from a packing box 3 feet square and high, a common lantern, a 30-inch length of furnace pipe 10 inches in diameter, a piece of tin or galvanized iron 14 inches square, three bricks and a pane of 12 by 16-inch glass. Nail up half the top of the box; make the other half into a door 18 inches by 3 feet. Cut an opening 10 by 14 inches in the center of the door and cover it with the glass. If possible, arrange the glass to slide in grooves so that it can be opened for ventilation. Hinge the door to one side of the box. The door (originally the top of the box) is the front of the brooder.

Turn the box so that the front faces you. Cut an opening 12 inches square in the top of the brooder. Stand the three bricks edgewise on the furnace pipe. Insert the lantern through the top of the brooder inside the furnace pipe, allowing it to hang down half way. Bend a heavy wire into a T-shaped hook to support the lantern handle from top of brooder. With a chisel cut a 4-inch hole at the center of the piece of galvanized iron to allow the fumes of the lantern to escape, and place this sheet over the 12-inch hole above the lantern. Take off board 6 inches wide from either end at the floor for the chicks to enter and leave the brooder. Cover this inside with a strip of blanket or old clothes, and cut 3-inch slits every 4 inches through which the chicks can

pass. The curtain is to confine the heat in a cool room.

Cover the floor of the brooder with 2 inches of clover chaff or short straw. Fill the lantern and light it. A moderate flame is all that is required to warm the brooder to 90 degrees on the floor. This brooder is intended to be operated in a small pen or run, the floor of which is covered with 2 inches of short straw. The chicks can leave the brooder if they become too warm. If they are cold they will peep and crowd around the lantern. Increase or decrease the heat until the chicks rest near the opening of the brooder and are contented.

Remove the baby chicks to the heated brooder in the morning. Cover the inside of a basket with a blanket to prevent their being chilled. Place them in the warmest portion of the brooder, or near the stove, and for the first and second days when the stove brooder is employed use a board 12 inches wide to keep them near the heat.

Boil some eggs hard; cut in small particles (discarding the shells) and make this mixture. Equal parts, by volume, of hard boiled eggs, rolled oats and dry bread crumbs. Scatter a little of this egg food on a board and tap the board with the finger nail to attract attention. The chicks will soon commence eating. Feed this mixture sparingly six times the first day, removing the board, and replacing the chicks in the brooder or near the stove when each meal is over.

The second day fill a small box or trough with equal measures of dry wheat bran and rolled oats. Crumble

the oats in the hand to break the large flakes. Keep this dry mash constantly before the chicks until they are weaned. Feed the egg mixture three times daily the first week. The third day commence feeding three times daily a mixture of equal measures of cracked wheat, screened cracked corn, crumpled rolled oats, millet seed, rice and one-half measure each of chick-size charcoal and chick-size grit or sifted creek sand. A commercial chick food can be substituted for the above mixture. It is scattered in the litter of the pen to make the chicks kick and exercise.

Supply fresh water, buttermilk or sour skim milk from the start. Buttermilk and sour skim milk cannot be surpassed as chick foods. The acid in the sour milk product not only aids digestion and increases the appetite, but it is a preventive and corrective of diarrhoea.

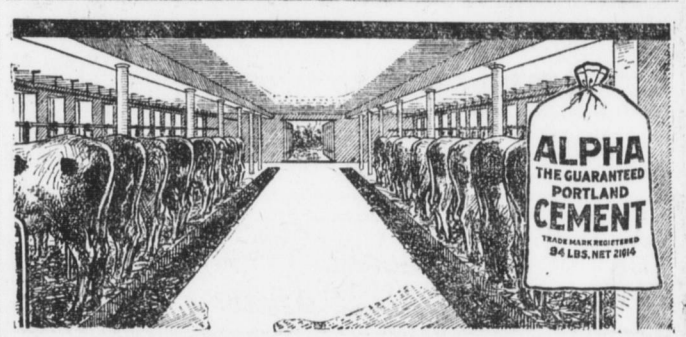
From first week to weaning time the chicks receive the bran-oats dry mash constantly, and three times daily a feed of scratching grain in the litter. Twice a week cut some cooked meat in small pieces and feed the chicks liberally. An excellent wet

mash is made of equal weights of sifted ground oats, cornmeal and wheat middlings mixed to a crumbly consistency with buttermilk. Feed this mash at noon daily. Chicks that run on a good range cannot be overfed the proper foods, but bear in mind that chicks will not grow on cracked grain or cornmeal alone.

Manufacturers have become millionaires by converting products hitherto considered worthless, into valuable commercial articles. The same idea applies to poultry keeping. And in next week's story Bert Connelly tells "How to Convert Poultry By-products Into Money."

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