

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Chicken Hatching.

Chicken hatching and raising by artificial means is a comparatively new branch of industry in the United States, although it was long ago carried on successfully in China, Egypt, and other Eastern countries.

An enterprising American, Mr. W. C. Baker, has apparently succeeded in overcoming these difficulties to such an extent that he may count with tolerable certainty upon being able to furnish young chickens for the market in every season of the year.

The incubators consist of eight shallow water tanks of galvanized iron, kept at the proper temperature by means of electricity, the current of which is governed by thermostats placed in the water, and acting upon dampers which let on or exclude the heat from the boiler-room according as the temperature varies.

When the eggs have been in the incubators four days, they are examined by holding them before a brilliant concentrated light. The eggs that are "clean"—that is, unfertile—are as good as when first laid; the added eggs are at once cooked for chicken food, while the fertile eggs are returned to the pans for the remaining period of incubation.

When they first emerge from the shell the chickens are as wet as though they had been immersed in water. They are at once placed in less shallow pans, where they are kept for a few hours, until dry, when they are removed to the "boarding-house."

The attempt to raise large numbers of chickens by artificial means has hitherto met with scanty success, which may be ascribed principally to lack of scientific knowledge, as well as neglect on the part of the persons engaged in the undertaking to attend thoroughly to the cleanliness of the premises and the wants of the chickens, both young and old.

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