HOME AND FARM MAGAZINE SECTION

Raising Poultry in America---Making It a Profitable Busine

Many experienced poultrymen contend that hen-brooded chicks are better, stronger that hen-brooded chicks are better, stronger and more vigorous than those grown in artificial brooders. This question is cer-tainly open to debate, but it is undeniably true that hens will, under proper can-ditions, rear chicks of high quality and with a small percentage of loss. The following contribution is full of helpful information regarding the proper management of the mother bens and their broods.

broods.

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BY PHOF. FREDERIC H. STONEBURN.

T IS an easy matter to raise a few chicks with hens, but an entirely differrent proposition to grow a large pumber through exclusive use of the natural method of brooding. This explains why the artificial method of brooding is used almost exclusively on most commercial poultry farms.

The time required to properly attend to a single brood of 15 chicks is not worth considering. But when one has 1500 chicks divided into 100 little flocks, scattered about over a considerable area, each demanding attention several times daily, the detail work demanded soon grows tiresome.

It is so much easier to attend to the same number of chicks in a convenient brooder house, or to three flocks of 500 each under colony brooders, that few poultrymen stick to the old method after they have reached a point where their flocks of chicks are really large in size.

Hen-Brooded Chicks Preferred.

This is not an intimation that it is impossible to grow many chicks by the natural method. In certain sections of the country, notably in New England, many poultry farmers who maintain very large flocks of fowls depend upon broody hens to hatch and rear all the chicks. But it will be observed that these men have studied the problem carefully and have provided the equipment which enables them to most conveniently and efficiently care for the hens and their broods. Unless some system is applied to this work, one need not expect to secure entirely satisfactory results. The more important details of management are presented below. In general, these apply to almost any poultry plant. Minor details may be changed to meet the pecullar conditions surrounding each particular case.

Proper feeding is of primary import-ance. This matter was fully discussed in a recent issue of this publication, and the points then brought out will not be repeated here. However, it might be well to state that the feeding problem is really simpler when the chicks are moth-ered by hens than when grown in brood-

ers. This is not due to any difference in the chicks, but rather to the conditions surrounding them. Each hen is usually given but a small number of chicks, and, as a rule, these small broods are per-mitted to have considerable liberty. In the brooder, from 50 to 500 chicks are kept in one flock and in many cases they are confined in yards of relatively small size. The hen-brooded chicks may, therefore, pick up much natural food. as worms, insects, fresh green stuff, and the like, and they further have the ac-tive assistance of the hen in finding these tidbits. The brooder chicks, on the other hand, must depend upon the attendant

to supply everything which they need in the way of foodstuffs. When feeding chicks with hens, espe-cially where expensive chick feeds are used, it is advisable to provide a special feeding place for the youngsters, so ar-ranged that the mother hen cannot get at the costly ration. Feed her on any ordinary grain mixture which is less expensive.

must be protected against the attacks of the many enemies that beset them.

the many enemies that beset them. Dryness is merely a matter of careful construction. A cheap box may be made weather-proof by merely tacking on a covering of tar paper or roofing mate-rial. Board floors, especially when slight-ly elevated above the ground level, will prevent dampness from working up un-derneath. derneath.

Ample ventilation may be secured in a variety of ways. A small coop which is virtually open in front will always be well ventilated, while free from moving currents of air.

Make Brood Coops Roomy.

Possibly the greatest fault of the average brood coop is its small size. A coop 18 inches square will serve as a sleeping 18 inches square will serve as a sleeping room for a hen and brood of usual size, but it is entirely inadequate during stormy days when the flock must of necessity remain under cover. When a thriving flock is confined in such small space for two or three days at a time, as in the case of rainy spells which so frequently occur during Spring and early frequently occur during Spring and early Summer, the results will be noted in checked growth and general unthrifti-

Since a well-built coop will give good service for many years and the saving of only two or three chicks will pay for the additional cost of a roomy coop, it is mighty poor business policy to make this structure too small for comfort and efficiency.

Virtually all night-prowling enemies will be baffled through the use of a tight floor and having all openings in side walls covered with close-meshed wire netting.

A necessary adjunct to the coop is a small run or yard which confines the hen while permitting the chicks to have their freedom. As a rule it is best to keep the mother at home until the chicks are well started in life, strong enough to fol-low her on the long journeys she will usually take if given her freedom.

Of course, the hen may be kept con-fined in the coop itself, but she will be more contented and keep in better con-dition if permitted to exercise in the open air and scratch and wallow in the dirt. Further, if permitted to get out-side where she can survey the territory around her home, she will often save many chicks by sounding the alarm when danger threatens.

A very satisfactory yard may be in-expensively constructed of ordinary laths, by tacking these on A-shaped frames. The end next to the coop is left open, but both sides and the other end are inclosed with laths nailed on some three inches apart. In such a run the hen can see all that is going on, can take the exercise she requires, and the chicks may run in and out as they please. In Europe commonly, and to some ex-tent in America, the evercising wards are

tent in America, the exercising yards are

dispensed with and the hens kept at home by tethering them to the coops, to weights or to pegs driven into the ground. A stout string of sufficient length is at-tached to one leg, the other end being secured as above. The hens very quickly

tached to one leg, the other end being secured as above. The hens very quickly learn just how far they can travel and they seldom, if ever, injure themselves by too vigorous pulling on their tether. Cleanliness is also necessary. The coop floor should be cleaned at frequent intervals and coop and run moved to fresh ground every few days. It is al-ways advisable to keep the floor covered with fresh, dry earth. This serves the double purpose of sealing up the drop-pings and making easy the work of cleaning. cleaning.

An occasional coat of whitewash, or spraying with some good disinfectant are desirable in order to keep the in-

are desirable in order to keep the in-terior in sanitary condition and dis-courage the activities of lice and mites. These little pests will, if not checked, virtually ruin any brood they attack. The various kinds of body lice are best fought with good lice-killing powders or ointments. Hen and chicks should be carefully examined at intervals and vig-orous treatment given as required. orous treatment given as required.

The blood-sucking mites live in cracks and crevices in the walls and floor of the coop. Cleanliness and frequent spray-ing with powerful disinfectants will attend to them.

Growing Chicks Require Shade.

The chicks should be given access to pienty of shady places under low-growing trees and bushes, tracts of growing corn or other similar crops. By early Summer the scantily clad youngsters suffer from the rays of the sun, and if natural shade is not available, clothcovered frames or heaps of evergreen brush should be provided. Piles of brush covered with pumpkin or squash vines make ideal shelters and furnish safe re-treats against the attacks of crows or hawks.

hawks. The chick range should not be too thickly populated. Overcrowding is a most common fault and brings on a train of evils. Allow each brood plenty of space. You will grow more and better chicks under such conditions. Frequently circumstances compet the chick raiser to grow many chicks on a

chick raiser to grow many chicks on a limited area. It then becomes his duty to pay particular attention to the task of keeping the soil in good condition. This is best accomplished by frequent and thorough cultivation, using either the spade or the wheel hoe to turn the surface under and bring fresh earth to the top. Growing green crops are a big help, too. Patches of grass, clover or rape may be started under wire-covered frames, the latter being removed as soon as the plants have become thoroughly established.

Watch the water supply. The young-

this should be clean and cod a small stream is ideal, but as by suitable brooks are not found on poultry plans. Let the fountains be then wash them daily, set then sun's rays cannot strike then box, with the open side then the north, makes an excellent Get the coop roady before

Get the coop ready being hatch, with everything this hatch, with everything abbet the batch is over and the thoroughly dried off, more to their new quarters. Carry the chicks in a box

Carry the chicks in a base the hen under your arm. Place in the coop, then introduce the the latter is first put is the will usually be greatly distu-tion the chicks are being removed basket and she may trush are in her excitement.

in her excitement. Where several hers bring at at the same time the chick "doubled up" if necessary and plus hers returned to the lay From 10 to 18 chicks may be From 10 to 15 chees may be hen, depending upon her she season of the year. I hav good success from placing the good success from placing the 50 chicks together in and Curiously enough, there sees quarreling under this plan two hens are kept in the and Confine the chicks to the a

day or so, then give then the They will not wander far he until they gain strength as a Release the broods early is i ing. It is rank folly to kee ing. It is rank folly to be a fined for many hours after any of the most successful paths I have ever known made it a rule to let his chicks out in rise.

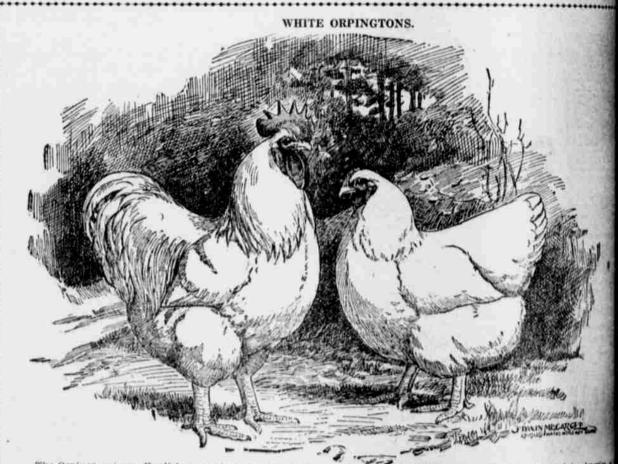
rise. Keep an eye on them during See that they have plenty of fresh water. Keep coops and a Close the coops up snugly at an watch the little chaps great (Copyright, 1915, by Mater-Metz 18t

Modesty.

It must not be supposed that the Kalser quoted Shakespare or not to be"-in his original His Majesty is a good Sul The contrary may be surning incident which occurred at a one of the Berlin embassies.

An English diplomat was f some big affair of the mone lady. "As our immortal with observed," the diplomation "There is a tide in the affin that, taken at the flood, inthe tune."

The Kaiser looked punid. "That is quite true," is have acquiesced, "but I dath saying "it."-London Titeiu



The disposition of the mother hen is also an important matter. Some hens are naturally motherly, kind and atten-tive to their broods, pleasant to manage. These will usually rear a large percentage of the chicks intrusted to them.

Others, with equally good intentions, are clumsy, stepping upon and crushing many of the chicks, still others are nervous and flighty or cross and quarrel-some. Such birds may more profitably be returned to the laying flock and their birds gives to the decendable kind chicks given to the dependable kind.

Select Mother Hens With Care.

The observant poultryman can usually plek out the unsatisfactory individuals while they are incubating or very shortly

while they are incubating or very shortly after they are given chicks. And it pays to watch this matter carefully. The construction of the brood coop is next in importance. It is most short-sighted policy to provide coops which will meet the requirements of the little fam-ilies only when the most favorable con-ditions obtain. Far better, design and build them in such a way that they will fully serve their purpose under the worst fully serve their purpose under they will possible conditions. Then they will sure-by be satisfactory at other times. Chicks, like adult fowls, require quar-ters which are dry, well-ventilated, light

and submy, and roomy. Further, they

The Orpington is an English general-purpose fowl, first produced in 1886, and generally introduced into America years later, after it had been brought to a fair degree of perfection. The white variety is pure white in planage, will up plakish-white beak and shanks. Males weigh \$12 and 10 pounds; females, 7 and 8 pounds, according to age. To be very satisfactory producers of brown-shelled eggs, and stock of all ages makes excellent table poultry. The bred we inated by the late William Cook, who produced several distinct varieties. Mr. Cook first produced this new four age of the black variety was the first to annexe for an effective to annexe for an effective to annexe for an effective to annexe the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for an effective to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety black was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe for the black variety was the first to annexe to black variety was the set of the black variety was the first to annexe to black variety was the set of the black variety was the first to annexe to black variety was the set of the black variety was the The black variety was the first to appear, followed at short intervals by other varieties, as the new kind gree at 820. larity.

Some breeders hold that the white variety is a sport from the black. Many white varieties of other breeds have a inated. Others believe that Mr. Cook used entirely is a sport from the black. Many white varieties of other White Dorking. But whatever its ancestry, the subject of this sketch is a true Orpington in shape and general disti-it is certainly description of the consideration of the subject of this sketch is a true Orpington in shape and general disti-It is certainly deserving of the consideration of all classes of poultry-keepers, whether operating a commercial plant me ing a backyard flock or interested in breeding show stock.