



The Way to Make a Brooder.
Those who prefer the artificial method of raising chickens can make a brooder out of an old packing case which will accommodate fifty chicks at a cost of about a dollar. Such a brooder has given excellent results at one of the experimental stations when used in shed or colony house. Details of construction of a brooder of this kind are shown in the illustrations. The lower section of the brooder, which contains the lamp for heating, is a box



HOMEMADE BROODER.
three feet square made of ten-inch boards, which is covered with tin or galvanized iron.

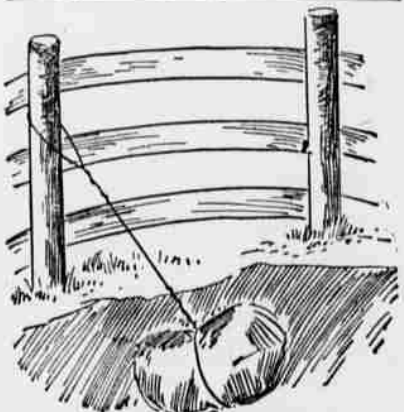
Above this cover, around the edges of the lamp box, one-inch strips are nailed. Two one-inch holes are bored through the strips on each side of the box for the purpose of ventilation. A floor of matched boards is laid on the strips. A hole eight inches in diameter is cut in the center of this floor, and over it is reversed an old tin pan ten inches in diameter, the sides of the pan being punched full of holes to allow free circulation of heat. Over this is placed a table two feet six inches square, with legs four and a half inches high.

Around the sides of this table is tacked a curtain of felt cloth from top to bottom at intervals of five or six inches to allow the chicks to pass in eddyboardsfourinches rdli uu unnnnn



SECTION OF BROODER.
and out at will, the whole being surrounded by boards four inches high and three feet long nailed together at the corners and resting on the floor of the brooder. When the chicks are ten days old one of these boards may be taken away and a bridge used so that the chicks may run from the hover to the floor of the room.

Bracing a Fence Post.
Oftentimes it is necessary or politic to curve the farm fence at a certain point, and those who have built such fences appreciate the difficulty of setting the post at the sharpest point of the curve, so that it will not pull over. Any of the ordinary methods of bracing do not seem to answer the purpose. An excellent brace may be made by the following plan: Place the post in position, then dig a hole two feet deep and about six or eight feet from the post. Obtain a heavy stone and fasten a stout piece of wire to it, long enough to reach to the post and wrap around it two or three times. Then bury the stone in the hole, covering it with the soil and tramping the soil down tightly. The other end of the wire is then wrapped about the post tightly and



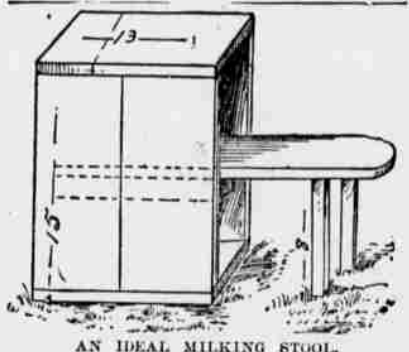
HOW TO BRACE A FENCE POST.
held in position with staples. It should be drawn taut. It will not be possible for the post to draw away from this brace under any ordinary conditions. The illustration shows how simple the plan is.

Cattle That Are Immune.
A discovery that may have an important place in the world's history, though of apparent trivial importance in itself, is that native Japanese cattle, under natural conditions, are free from tuberculosis, while cattle imported into Japan appear to be highly susceptible. The significance of the discovery lies in the possibility that an immune breed of cattle may be developed which, of course, would be a big victory in the war being waged against the white plague.

Mixed Seeds for Meadows.
Taking one farm with another, there are few containing the soil necessary to grow a profitable crop of pure timothy hay, hence it is best to use mixed seeds. What the mixture should be depends somewhat on the locality and the strength of the soil. Where clover hay is mainly desired a mixture of alsike clover and timothy gives splendid results, particularly on soil that is inclined to be wet. Eight pounds of clover to the acre is the usual seeding for red clover, though on land that has been in clover six pounds is usually sufficient. As a rule, there is not enough clover hay grown on the farm. Valuable as timothy is for horses, the clover hay is much more valuable for a mixed lot of stock; it suits the cows, sheep, calves and lambs better than either timothy or mixed hay, and is very valuable for the poultry. Where there is an abundance we would not hesitate to feed more or less of it to swine as a variation in the roughage from corn stover.

Open the Stable Windows.
If the cows have been stabled all winter they are likely to become uneasy as spring advances and long for outdoors. It is an excellent plan to turn them out into sheltered barnyards that are clean and so arranged that the cold spring winds will not blow over them. Give them some roughage to munch over while they are out. If it is not feasible to turn them out yet, then arrange the stable so they may have all the fresh air possible without causing the air to blow over them so they are likely to catch cold. The window arranged so that it may be opened and the opening covered by the muslin sash will furnish this air without draught better than anything else. Especially give the cows sun if it can be done. If there is an open shed on the place facing the sun into which the cows may be turned they will enjoy it immensely. This little care just a few weeks before they are turned out to grass will help affairs wonderfully.

Good Milking Stool.
The milking stool on the average farm is of little value. Usually it is an affair with one leg, upon which the milker balances himself so that he can fall readily, carrying the pail of milk with him, should the cow move quickly. A stool that will not tip over is readily made of a small box that is strong. The box should be about fifteen inches high, unless the cow is built low, in which case the box can be three inches lower. It should be from twelve to fourteen inches square to form a comfortable seat. Nail two cleats on the inside of the box exactly eight inches from the bottom, then fit a bench or shelf on these cleats, with one end extending out the sufficient length and held in place with two legs. On this



AN IDEAL MILKING STOOL.
the pail is set, while the milker occupies the top of the box and straddles the pail. This appliance is readily made, is firm on the floor, and, except in unusual cases, no cow would be likely to upset either pail or milker. The illustration shows the affair very plainly.

Weighing the Milk.
There is no good reason why the plan of weighing the milk to ascertain what each cow is doing should be put off until fall. Start in with the fresh cows and keep it up around to the time they are dried off again, and one will then have a valuable record of results. A neighbor whom we induced to try this plan several years ago was glad enough to get rid of one-half of his herd of eighteen cows and buy new ones, for he found that those he sold had been robbing him for years; in the case of two of them they were a positive loss while the others gave not enough profit in the twelve months to anywhere near pay for the time consumed in caring for them. The eyes of more than one dairyman have been opened by this simple expedient of keeping a careful record, by weight, of the milk furnished by each cow for a given period of considerable length. This is necessary, for some cows are small milkers in summer, others in winter, and vice versa.—Indianapolis News.

Giant Among Incubators.
An incubator holding 11,700 eggs is now in operation in Buffalo, N. Y., and the company building it is said to have orders for three more of the mammoth incubators in different parts of the United States. It would seem from this that the problem of artificial incubation had passed the experimental stage, which many people seem to think it is still laboring in.

It is better to look for a physician than for sympathy when you are sick.

THE FRENCH COLLIERY DISASTER.



SCENE AT THE MOUTH OF THE MINE.

All France was appalled by the immensity of the mine disaster in the Courrières district of the Pas-de-Calais, which blotted out nearly 1,200 lives. The disaster in which so many men died was due to an explosion of fire damp. Serious disorders were narrowly averted after the disaster, owing to the persistence of persons who wanted to see the bodies of the dead as they were taken from the mine in hope of identifying them. The population of the mining district became so hysterical that the locality was placed under the most rigid military control at once and all bars and cafes were closed until after the burial of the victims. The picture depicts the scenes at the mouth of the pit.

The miners at Courrières were considered the surest and most skillful in France. They had made no complaint and made their daily descent into the mine with the greatest confidence, and the explosion came as a great shock to the country. The work of rescue continued several days and everyone thought to be possibly alive was brought to the surface; then fourteen of the 1,200 miners who were entombed twenty days before, were taken from the mine alive and well. They had lived on hay found in one of the underground stables, and the morsel of food which they took into the mine with them.

KEEP A FAMILY RECORD.

Difficult Often Even with It to Prove One's Identity.

Paradoxical as it may seem, the most difficult thing to prove in court is who you are, says the New York World. It is a simple matter if you have still living plenty of relatives of an older generation, but suppose your parents and uncles and aunts are dead, it becomes well nigh impossible. As a matter of fact, your knowledge of your identity is absolutely hearsay. You know your father and mother called you their son, and to that fact you may testify if the question of your identity should ever come before a judge and jury. But the testimony goes before the jury with the warning from the judge that it is only hearsay, for you have no personal knowledge of the matter.

Official town or parish records are valuable, but by no means conclusive. Suppose you are John Smith, son of Robert and Mary Smith, born at Albany, on Aug. 1, 1865. The records of births in the bureau of vital statistics at Albany will prove that a son named John was born to Robert and Mary Smith on that date; the register of the church may prove that John, son of Robert and Mary Smith, was baptized on a certain date, but they do not prove that you are John Smith of whom these are records.

To establish the connection between you and the person mentioned in the records, in other words, to prove your own identity, is the difficulty. If your mother is alive, she can do it; if any relative who has known you since you were born is alive he can do it.

The successive suits for the estate of A. T. Stewart failed on grounds such as these. The plaintiffs, cousins of the late Mrs. Stewart, were unable to prove their relationship. It was necessary in one of these cases that man should prove his late father and A. T. Stewart to have been brothers, but he had no personal knowledge of the matter; he had heard his father in Ireland refer to A. T. Stewart as his brother, but the court would not let him testify even to that and, as the defendants denied the relationship, the case fell to the ground.

Very often it is necessary to success in litigation over an estate to prove not only who were your parents, but who were your grandparents. Family Bibles with the records therein help out in this, but are not at all conclusive. Birth and marriage certificates are accepted as corroborative, but it requires quite a mass of such matter, together with at least some witnesses who can testify of their own personal knowledge, before a court will accept such a fact as proved to its satisfaction.

All this illustrates the great value of keeping family records, for these, while not conclusive, are strong cor-

roborative evidence of identity, especially if the handwriting of the successive heads of the family in which the entries are made can be proved, which is generally fairly easy. Many a great estate has been lost to its rightful owners solely because of their inability to prove who they were.

ROMAN EXCAVATIONS.

More Remains of Ancient Structures Are Discovered.

In continuing the excavations of the Imperial Tribune in the Forum more fragments of stucco modeled with winged figures have been found, says the London Standard. In studying the position of the Pluteus of Trajan and of the square edifice that stood near a large dedicatory inscription has come to light, with bronze letters nearly sixteen inches high, of which the forms remain in the slabs of travertine. It is twelve yards long and records the names of the magistrates and the authorities of the senate and the people of Rome, and may be a dedicatory inscription of the pavement of the Imperial Forum.

Sig. Boni has come to an interesting conclusion with regard to many of the buildings belonging to the first and second century. He is now convinced that a large number of them that were supposed to be built of long, flat bricks are really composed of tiles, obtained in millions from the great conflagrations that devastated Rome. The aqueduct of the Aqua Traiana, the entire port of Ostia, near Flumicino; the hemicycle of the Forum of Trajan, the Horrea under the Basilica of Maxentius, many of the tombs on the Via Latina and the Via Appia, including the internal part of the tomb of Cecilia Metella, and many other buildings, are all formed of these remains. This would entirely alter the dates attributed to many buildings, which were formerly supposed to be unquestionably fixed by the stamps of the supposed bricks of which they were composed, but which Sig. Boni feels that he has now proved were taken from the remains of very much older constructions.

One Thing That Saved Him.

Casey—Oh, but that bye o' Finnegan's is the bad one.
Cassidy—Aye! He'd bring his father's gray hairs in sorrow to the grave, if it wasn't for wan thing.
Casey—An' w'at's that?
Cassidy—The Finnegan's always git bald before they've a chance to git gray.—Philadelphia Press.

Sympathetic Entomology.

"Why won't that Mrs. Green wear birds on her hat?"
"I think it is because she has a bee in her bonnet."—Baltimore American.
But the day worker acquires more coin than the day dreamer.



May—Is he a man you can trust?
Bess—Oh, yes. Papa says he owes everybody.—Judge.

Ostend—Say, pa, how do they raise "political plums?" Pa—By grafting, my son.—Chicago Daily News.

Church—What is your lunch hour?
Gotham—Between twelve o'clock and five minutes later.—Yonkers Statesman.

Yeast—Did he fail to make a success of business? Crimmonbenk—Yes, I believe that is why he failed.—Yonk-

Nell—Old Mr. Gotrox says he would die for me. Belle—Be careful. He may be stronger than he looks.—Philadelphia Record.

"De man dat thinks he knows it all," said Uncle Eben, "generally turns out to be a victim of misplaced confidence."—Washington Star.

First Verminiform Appendix—People are trying to get rid of us. Second Verminiform Appendix—Yes; but we are still in the majority.—Exchange.

Kind Friend—Pardon me, but I ought to tell you that Jones has run away with your wife. Husband (bored)—But why run?—Punch.

Bella—So she's engaged at last! She seems likely to beat us all in the matrimonial race. Stella—Yes; she is on her last lap this time.—Illustrated Bits.

Kate—Mille says Jack tried to kiss her and she called him down hard! Do you believe it? Tom—I believe that he tried to kiss her, yes!—Detroit Free Press.

Peppery—You don't mean to say that you absolutely do nothing? Cholly—Aw, I don't even do that. My man attends to ev'rything, you know.—Philadelphia Press.

Pat—This is a great country, Mary Ann. Mary Ann—How's that? Pat—Shure th' pa-apers sez yez can buy a folve-dollar money order for three cints.—Washington Life.

Walter—How did you order your beef, sir? Gruffleigh—Personally, confound you! I suppose I ought to have ordered it by mail two weeks in advance.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Customer (in restaurant)—Walter, I wish you would bring me a medallion-dome porterhouse steak smothered in mushrooms. Walter (to cook)—Choke one with the toadstools!—Milwaukee Sentinel.

"The rolling stone gathers no moss," quoted the man who had never been outside his home county. "True," rejoined the globe trotter, "but it acquires an enviable polish."—Chicago Daily News.

"You say that public official had nothing to say?" said the editor. "Yes," answered the self-confident reporter; "but he talked three-quarters of an hour before I discovered it."—Washington Star.

"Brown claims to have the most remarkable auto in town." "Why so?" "I don't see anything great about it." "Well, he says he's had it a year, and there are still two of the original parts left."—Judge.

The Lawyer—By the way, what shall we charge Jenks for our services in that case we won for him? About thirty thousand? His Partner—Great Scott, man! Isn't he worth more than that?—Brooklyn Life.

Gentleman With Grievance—This auto breaks down every ten minutes. Conscientious Dealer—What of it? Gentleman With Grievance—You said there were none better! Conscientious Dealer—There ain't!—Puck.

"Oh, Johnny," said the Sunday school teacher, "you mustn't take money from the plate. Why did you try to do such a thing?" "I thought you said it was for the heathen, and maw says I'm one.—Exchange.

"Woody declares his grandfather descended from one of the greatest houses in England." "Ah, yes; I did hear a story about the old man falling off a roof he was repairing once for Lord Somebody or other."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Farmer Green—Say, Neighbor Jones raised such a big pumpkin that he cut it in half and made two cradles out of it for his twins. City Boarder—That's nothing. Down in the city we often have three cops asleep on a single bent.—Exchange.

"I suppose you will marry when you grow up," said the visitor, pleasantly. "No," replied the thoughtful little girl, "mamma says papa is more care than the children, so I guess the care of my children will be enough for me without the care of a husband."—Chicago Evening Post.

Patience—You're quite lame to-day? Patrice—Yes. Will stood on my foot for two minutes last night. Patience—And you allowed it? Patrice—I didn't know it. Patience—Didn't know he was standing on your foot? Patrice—No, I didn't. He was proposing at the time.—Yonkers Statesman.

"Pa," said little Willie, "what is the difference between a magnet and a magnate?" "A magnet, Willie, is a metallic substance, generally of iron, which will attract certain metals, but not gold or silver. A magnate is a metallic substance, invariably of brass, which will attract gold and silver only."—Judge.