

done with a very sharp penknife, the foot of the duckling being held on a piece of solid board during the operation.

#### DRINKING-VESSELS.

For ducklings all drinking-vessels should be deep, in order that the nostrils may be cleansed. If the nostrils are allowed to become clogged the eyes become plastered, and trouble ensues.

#### ACCOMMODATION.

One of the most common mistakes made in poultry-keeping—it is always with us—is the incubating of a larger number of chickens than the plant will carry. I do not mean the amateur who buys an incubator and a few sittings of eggs and thinks he is ready to start poultry-keeping; but I am referring to those in a fairly big way who do not make sufficient preparation in the way of brooder accommodation, colony houses, and fowl-houses in preparing for a season's operations. They hatch all they can, and then trust to providence for the subsequent housing. Naturally their losses and disappointments as the season progresses are heavy, as there is no greater weakness in poultry-management than in crowding the stock. Even where endeavour has been made to provide sufficient brooder-capacity, the poultryman often makes a false step in thinking that a certain box brooder advertised to accommodate a given number of chickens is sufficient for his purpose. It may be all right for a few days, but as the chickens develop it will be found that instead of there being sufficient space for a hundred chickens the brooder will only take about fifty with safety. I have seen this crowding carried to such an excess that endeavour has been made to rear the last batch of chickens in the incubator. The result, of course, has proved disastrous. Many who have commenced operations with the imported outdoor brooders have found it would have been cheaper and more satisfactory in the end to have built a small brooder-house with a pipe system and a Perfection kerosene-stove. The imported brooders are unnecessarily expensive, and are, after all, only a substitute.

#### REARING YOUNG TURKEYS.

The rearing of turkeys is frequently a very difficult matter, except where the peculiar environment necessary is available. It is difficult to do any good with them in confinement, especially in this country, where the breeding-stock procurable is so much inbred. Success is generally achieved only where the birds have a free range, and where the stamina has been maintained by the use of the best unrelated blood. Nature should be followed as closely as possible. The hen should be allowed to bring out her own chicks, but care should be taken to confine her and the chickens for the first few days. It is a mistake to allow the young ones too much liberty, especially where there is long grass which may be heavily