

under the hover than when moved during the day. The chicks should be kept in the brooder proper for the first three days. On the fourth day they should be allowed in the outer compartment, commencing with half an hour at first (at the most favourable time, of course) and gradually extending the time until about a week, when they may be given the next stage of the inside run. The weather conditions must always be studied before allowing the chicks in the out-of-door runs.

At feeding-time, for the first three days, the hover should be lifted out and the chicks fed on a shallow tray. After giving the little ones time to have their meal, the tray should be removed and the hover put back in its place. From the first, clean water, grit, and charcoal should be always before the birds, and fed separately.

The fireless brooder is strongly recommended for rearing ducklings, provision being made for an ample supply of fresh air, which is the key to successful duck-rearing.

This system of brooding chickens without any artificial heat can be employed either indoors or outside, but to obtain the best results it should be worked under cover. This is not only best for the comfort of the chicks but also for the attendant during rough weather. It must also be remembered that to make a brooder for outside work demands a much greater expense than for one worked indoors. In the first place it is essential that the outside brooder be made watertight as well as draught-proof. To use a makeshift apparatus for any outdoor brooder is only inviting trouble.

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*Intercultivation.*—In all districts subject to dry summers the question of putting at least a portion of the arable land under intercultivated crops should receive attention. By *shallow* surface cultivation a mulch is kept upon the surface, and soils thus treated part with their moisture far less rapidly than where intercultivation is neglected. One repeatedly sees abundant crops of kale, maize, &c., so treated standing alongside crops of the same kind grown in the same paddock but not intercultivated, and which in consequence had withered and died. A few acres so grown will often decide as to whether the stock can be kept going till the rains come, or must be sold at whatever they fetch. The cost of a little additional cultivation becomes a matter of very small import if it is the means of saving a loss of perhaps over 50 per cent. in the value of the stock.—G. de S. Baylis.