

## AN IMPROVED FIRELESS CHICKEN - BROODER.

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A NUMBER of inquiries have been received lately for particulars in regard to making an inexpensive fireless brooder for indoor use. There are many different styles of fireless brooders, but the writer cannot do better than reproduce the hover described in the *Journal* for August, 1912, which was designed by Mr. A. Carr (formerly Manager of the Department's Milton Poultry-station), with the addition of an improved brooder-box. The chief modification in the brooder now presented is that it is made on the drawer principle. One of the chief difficulties in the work of fireless brooding is that experienced in getting the chicks, when very young, to go under the hover after being allowed in the run for feeding and exercising purposes, owing to there being no artificial heat available to induce the little ones to go there. As will be seen by the illustration, the drawer provided practically eliminates the usual practice of pushing the chicks under the hover by hand.

The brooder-box (in which the hover is placed) to accommodate fifty chicks should have an inside measurement of 30 in. by 30 in. Its height is 10 in. over all. The outer compartment, into which the brooder proper slides, is 32 in. by 32 in. outside measurement, the height being 13 in. over all.

The frame of the hover referred to is circular and made of sheet zinc,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep, with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. flange top and bottom (the rim of a bicycle-wheel with the spokes taken out will serve the purpose). This frame is supported by three flat legs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, turned in at the bottom 1 in. These legs are adjustable, being made of two pieces of zinc, one of which is an extension of the other, and they allow for an expansion from 3 in. to 6 in. A hole is made in the inner piece and a groove in the other, and with the aid of a small screw-bolt and a thumb-screw the hover can be raised as the chickens develop.

The piece of pure-wool blanket which covers the hover may be fastened on with a piece of strong string, fine wire, or a narrow leather strap with a buckle attached. Care must be taken that the blanket is given sufficient sag in the centre to actually rest