

some experience who does not possess a special aptitude in the work of brooder-management, will fail to always rear chickens with success. In the case of some of the plants where I have been requested to investigate the cause of the mortality I am fully convinced that improper management was solely responsible, and that the so-called epidemics did not exist; moreover, that the brooders being used were by no means at fault. It was the common fault of blaming everything but one's own understanding of the essentials which go to make success.

In the work of artificial chicken-rearing the point should never be lost sight of that the best brooder ever manufactured, or the best set of instructions ever framed, will fail to spell success if the person in charge of the rearing operations is incapable of thinking out things for himself and applying the knowledge of the necessary work which is now available. It is now generally recognized that to successfully manage poultry in large numbers the poultry-keeper must be a person of many parts. I have in my mind's eye men who have mastered to a high degree the important essentials regarding feeding, mating, culling of stock, &c., but who have sadly failed to rear the necessary chickens for the renewal of stock. There are so many things responsible for unsuccessful rearing by artificial means that it is necessary to look for the cause in many quarters. It is now too late, however, to talk of this for the present season.

—*F. C. Brown, Chief Poultry Instructor, Wellington.*

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## THE APIARY.

### EXTRACTING.

EXTRACTING should now be in full swing in all districts. Where operations for any reason have been delayed care must be taken to see that the bees are not crowded out, or they will commence to loaf, and the ultimate crop will be small. It is good policy to extract twice during the season, but where the beekeeper prefers to leave the work until the end of the flow a close watch should be kept so as to provide ample room. This, however, can only be done where large numbers of spare combs are kept on hand. It is during the season when honey is coming in freely that the beekeeper realizes that his most valuable asset next to his bees is a good stock of extracting-combs. Every effort should be made to get at least twenty spare combs for each hive in the apiary, and with this number always on hand the bees are not likely to be hampered for room.

In the absence of plenty of drawn-out combs the best plan is to keep the extractor going, and thus prevent the bees from blocking the brood-combs. This usually happens unless ample room is provided, and as a result the queens are prevented from laying to their utmost and the colonies dwindle. At no time during the working season should the work of the queen be hindered. Care must be taken at all times to see to this important item during the flow. The honey is quite ready to extract when the combs are a half to three-parts capped, but great care must be exercised not to extract unripe honey. Numerous instances have come under my notice where the practice of taking unripe honey has meant a total loss to the beekeeper.