ern American architects are achieving. True, these artistic homes are still the exception rather than the rule; but their number is constantly increasing. And when popular opinion is more widely and enthusiastically awakened, when people realize that comfortable, beautiful architecture is within reach of even the very moderate income, provided the house is wisely planned —then we may expect to find in our towns and villages, our suburbs and country districts, an interesting variety of individual, original and attractive homes.

FEEDING AND CARE OF LITTLE CHICKS

MR. FRANK W. GAYLOR, poultry expert, and author of the article on page 326, recommends the following method in the feeding and care of little chicks.

When twenty-four to forty-eight hours old, they should be placed in the brooder or (if hen hatched) in the brood coop with the mother hen, and given their first food. If in a brooder, the brooder must have previously been warmed and regulated to a temperature of about 90°. The animal heat of the chicks will raise this temperature to about 95° or more, which is the proper heat—90° to 100°—for the first ten days.

Everything about the brooder must be thoroughly clean, and the floor covered with dry, sharp sand, except under the hover, where a litter or bedding of cut clover should be provided. A clean fountain that the chicks cannot get into to get wet, should be filled with water that has been slightly warmed and placed within easy reach. The chill should be taken off the water for at least a week, as extremely cold water given newly hatched chicks is liable to cause trouble.

The first feed should be a good, clean, dry, grain chick food, with a little chick grit scattered over it. For the first few days this is best fed on boards about six inches wide and fifteen to twenty inches long, with a lath tacked around the edge to form a shallow box or tray. After that it may be fed in a hopper if desired. If hand feeding is preferred, the use of the feeding board may be continued, with a little food scattered in litter for them to scratch for. Chicks should be fed four or five times a day until four weeks old, when three times is sufficient. When they are five or six days old, grit, charcoal and beef scrap should be placed before them in hoppers where they can help themselves. The supply should never be allowed to run out.

At a week old they should be supplied with green food daily in the form of lettuce, spinach, beet tops or sprouted oats. Do not feed hard-boiled eggs to newly hatched chicks. It is better to beat up a raw egg until the yolk is well broken, and thicken it with stale bread crumbs. The chicks will relish this, and it is an excellent food, promoting growth and aiding digestion; whereas hard-boiled eggs impair digestion.

Fresh water should be provided twice a day and the fountains washed out daily, and once a week the fountains should have a thorough cleansing with water in which a half pint of crude sanitas has been put to each two gallons of water. Use a sponge for this weekly washing, and do it thoroughly, as many an epidemic among chicks can be traced to unclean drinking fountains.

Little chicks should be let out on the ground every day that it is not stormy, after they are ten days old. In February and March, even, the snow should be kept cleared from in front of the brooder house or brooders, and on every pleasant day the chicks should be let out, if for no more than an hour or two at midday when it is warmest. Chicks must have access to the ground to thrive and do well. Much of the so-called leg weakness in brooder chicks is caused by being off the ground too long.

Shade during hot weather is as necessary as warmth in cold weather. The former can be best provided by low-growing shrubs or fruit trees, or by frames covered with heavy muslin and placed so that the chicks can get under them.

In changing the food ration, do not make too radical a change, or it may prove disastrous. At about four or five weeks of age the safest method is to change from chick food to developing food. At first give one feed daily of the developing food for a few days, then two feeds daily, and finally take away the chick food entirely. The composition of the two foods is such that no harm will result from such a method. Cleanliness, warmth (not too high a temperature under the hover), freedom from lice, access to Mother Earth after they are ten days old, and the use of a good quality of food, will insure the successful raising of little chicks.