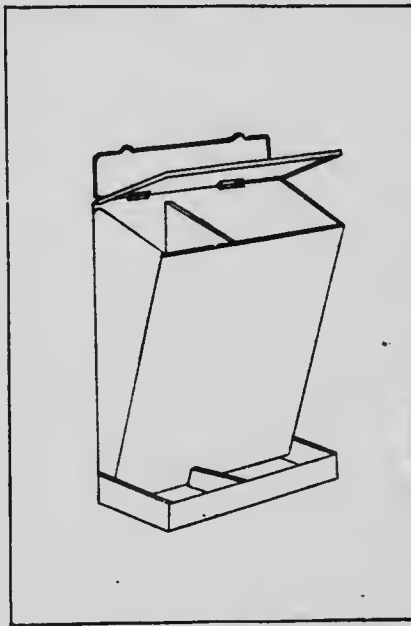


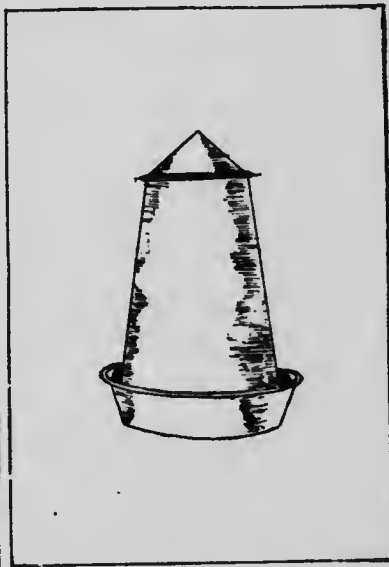
The eggs should be tested the seventh day in the same way as those in incubators, removing the infertile and those in which dead germs appear. An egg-tester can be procured at any poultry-supply house for a small sum. They are generally given free to purchasers of incubators. An acetylene cycle-lamp makes a first-class tester. If a number of hens are set at the same time, the fertile eggs, after testing, can be rearranged under the hens necessary to cover them, and the remainder of the hens reset or placed back in the laying or breeding house, as desired.

From the seventh to the ninth day the fertile eggs with live germs will have a dark spot, the germ, in the larger end with the veins radiating from it, making a spider-like appearance. Eggs showing a red ring, or eggs showing a dark spot without blood-vessels, clouded or infertile eggs, should also be removed.

The eggs should again be tested on the fourteenth or fifteenth day, removing any in which the chicks have died.



A useful grit, charcoal, or shell hopper.



A drinking fountain of useful design. A disused salmon-can with small hole pierced in the top and a saucer answers very well for individual hen and chicks.

If testing takes place on the sixteenth or seventeenth day, at this stage of incubation a live chick will have darkened all the egg with the exception of the air-cell. If the egg is closely watched, a movement of the chick can often be detected.

The eggs should be examined every other day to see if they have been soiled. Should this happen, wash them in water of 90 degrees temperature, and dry before putting in nest. Dust the hen, when first setting, and on about the seventeenth day, with a good dusting-powder.

Place a pan of whole corn or corn and wheat near the nest, some clam or oyster shell, and about every other day provide a sod of young tender grass-shoots. Change the drinking-water frequently.

Immediately after the chicks are removed, the litter should be taken out of the box and burnt, the box washed or disinfected, and placed in the sun to dry before using again. Setting a hen on a nest that has been previously used is an unprofitable proceeding, for red mites will generally put in an appearance, and they are easier to rear than chickens.