

Fig. 63 is a photograph of a held egg, or one that is suitable for baking purposes, but not for boiling or packing. Notice that the yolk is conspicuous and the air space is very large. Pickled eggs usually show a conspicuous yolk but a small air space. Eggs that are two weeks of age usually show the yolk, and have an air space about the size of a twenty-five cent piece.

Figs. 64, 65, 66 and 67 are photographs of what the dealers term "spots," as they show various growths of moulds in the egg. These eggs are not rotten, but when opened smell musty. The mouldy portions are usually easily seen.

POULTRY HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

There is very great doubt in the minds of the writers of the advisability of "doctoring" sick chickens. The unit of production (the individual bird) is so small that if a man's time is worth anything it will not pay him unless he considers the bird especially valuable. The "cured" bird will always remain a menace to the flock, and with the slightest adverse conditions will show a return of the disease. Disease of any kind usually weakens the constitution of the individual, and hence lowers their breeding value. In such simple diseases as indigestion, colds, etc., where the greater part of the flock is affected and the flock can be treated as a unit, treatment is, no doubt, advisable. Where the birds are kept for the production of eggs and meat only, the hatchet will be found the safest and most effective method of treatment for individuals.

Prevention is better than cure, and every effort on the part of the poultry keeper should be exerted to maintain such environmental and sanitary conditions as to prevent disease gaining a foothold in the flock.

The stock which is used for breeding purposes should be selected first for *constitutional vigor*, as this is the foundation upon which the breeder must build future success. Discard all birds which have at any time been sick, and cull very closely birds which, as chicks, were raised in closely confined quarters.

The housing of the birds is very important in the prevention of disease. Abundance of fresh air and sunlight in the house, without draughts or dampness, will do much in maintaining a healthy flock. Houses must be kept sanitary by frequent removal of droppings and litter, as the latter becomes soiled. At least once during the year, preferably about the month of August, the house should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. All movable fittings, as nests, hoppers, and roosts may be removed from pen to facilitate cleaning. Thoroughly scrape dropping-boards, if used; remove all litter from floor, and then brush down ceiling and walls with a broom. The house is now ready to be disinfected. The writers find it advisable to apply a coat of whitewash to all pens once a year to brighten and help cleanse the pens. They have also found it most economical to combine the whitewashing and disinfecting processes by adding the disinfectant to the whitewash. The whitewash is made by slacking fresh stone lime and adding sufficient water to dilute to a creamy mixture. To this is added ten to fifteen per cent. of crude carbolic acid or some of the tarry compounds used for disinfecting purposes, and the whole applied with a hand spray pump. A pump capable of developing a fair amount of pressure is desirable, as it forces the solution into all cracks and crevices about the building. Applying with a whitewash brush is not to be recommended, as there is not sufficient penetration. Such materials as salt and cement, which are used by some to give sticking power to the wash, are not here