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most of the hens lay. It is well to release the hens at least three times before noon, and it is also a good plan when pullets are put into laying quarters for the first time that the trap nest be on hand before the pullets seek elsewhere for a nest. When the young pullet has found a nest for herself in the corner or under the drop board and the trap nest is afterwards introduced, it is very difficult to get the pullet to leave her own nest then to go to the trap, and it is also a problem to get hens that are persistent in laying in the straw to take to the trap nest. Nothing but perseverance on the part of the attendant will accomplish this and he should, whenever he finds a hen laying outside the nest, pick her up and put her in, whether she has laid or not. This done repeatedly without any excitement very often leads her to mend her ways.

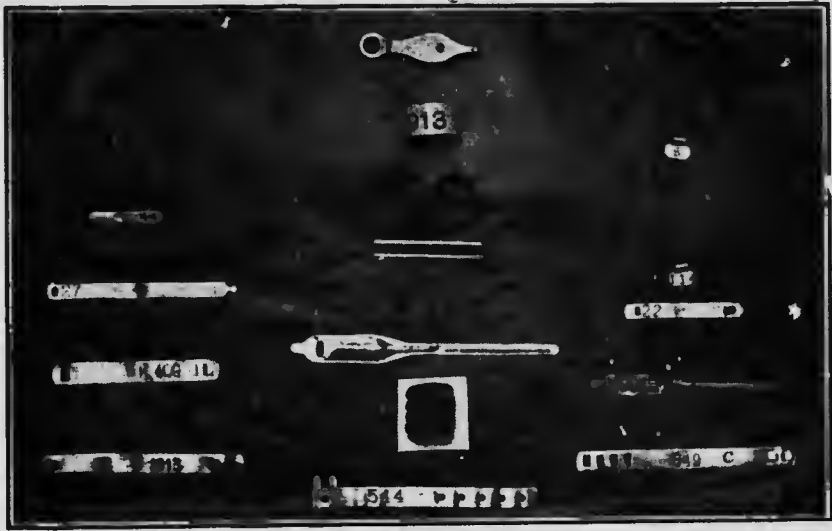


FIG. 4. Leg bands, various styles and sizes to fit the chick or turkey. The figure at the centre top is a toe punch.

LEG BANDS.—When trap nests are used it is necessary to have the birds marked so that they can be distinguished by numbers or otherwise. The most common way of doing this is to leg-band them, either with metal bands giving a number, or, as is practised at the Experimental Farms, they may be numbered with coloured celluloid bands. These bands are in ten colours and each colour represents a figure. By this means the number of the hen can be told without close examination, that is without picking her up and looking at the small leg band to see what number is there. As the hen is released from the nest the attendant at a glance sees the combination of colours and immediately knows the number of the hen. These coloured leg-bands are especially valuable if any particular hen is wanted from the flock. Those who use the numbered bands know what an inconvenience it is to examine each hen to find out the individual that is required, but with the coloured bands she can be picked out from the rest of the flock quite easily.

One of the difficulties with leg-bands is that they become displaced and are lost, and this has been the experience to a slight degree with the coloured celluloid bands above referred to, and, where pedigree work is being carried on systematically, the loss of several bands in a year interferes to no little extent with the value of the work, so this year a double system is being introduced. The coloured bands are used for convenience in the general trap-nesting, but to insure accuracy a numbered sealed metal band is also being used.