

In using any powder or treatment for lice one application is not sufficient to free the birds of the parasites, as there are the unhatched eggs which are not affected by the application. The treatment should be repeated in about ten days and a third application given if necessary.

With young chicks, lice, if present, are usually found on the top of the head. The only safe and satisfactory treatment is to apply grease, such as lard or vaseline, to the top and back of the head with the finger. The addition of sulphur to the grease is sometimes recommended, but should not be used on young chicks.

*Mites.* The most common variety is the fowl mite or red mite. They visit the birds only to feed, usually at night, and spend the rest of the time on the undersides of the perches, in cracks or crevices, or in collected droppings, or other filth that may be allowed to accumulate about the house. They breed in such places as mentioned above and reproduce very rapidly, especially in the hot spring and summer.



Fig. 73. A good type of spray outfit for a poultry plant.

Treating for mites consists in first thoroughly cleaning the house, removing all droppings, litter and nesting material. Then thoroughly spray with a five per cent. solution of cresol, using sufficient force to get good penetration into the cracks and crevices. Repeat this if necessary. Treating the roosts with kerosene at intervals of two weeks during warm weather will assist in preventing spread of the parasites.

*Scaly Leg.* The mites producing this condition excavate places under the skin where they live and breed. The irritation produced by the presence of the mites under the skin induces a discharge from the surrounding tissue which solidifies. Increased secretions raise the skin of the legs, producing the rough, scaly condition. The raising of the skin enables the mite to burrow further into the tissue, thereby aggravating the scaly condition.

Individual treatment is necessary. It consists of the application of some penetrating oil to the infected parts. Immersing the shanks in kerosene or a five per cent. solution of cresol, anointing the parts after each immersion with lard or vaseline, will usually effect a cure.

(NOTE.—In the preparation of the foregoing work on diseases the publication "Diseases of Poultry" by Pearl, Surface and Curtis, has been used extensively, for which credit is hereby given).