

ables, with the exception of potatoes. These have to be fully ripened before storing, the temperature never being allowed to touch freezing point, which would ruin them owing to the moisture they contain, stored in a dark place or the eyes will start looking out.

### EGGS IN COLD STORAGE

One of the most difficult things to store are eggs. To freeze an egg is to crack the shell; the freezing point of eggs is  $28^{\circ}$ , that is when the frost crystals appear in the inside of the egg. I have been asked the question why should eggs be carried at so low a temperature as  $30^{\circ}$ . My only explanation is, that in freezing anything the bacteria in the article is held perfectly still, and so long as it is kept so, no damage can result. We cannot freeze the bacteria of an egg, but we carry as low a temperature as safety will allow, therefore the bacteria of the egg is less active than at a higher temperature, consequently the egg will keep longer and come out of storage in better condition.

A temperature of  $45^{\circ}$  will stop incubation. When incubation is taking place, the tread of the egg, which is situated in the yoke, gradually moves to the side, and when it reaches the shell adheres to it, then the egg is what is termed "spent".

A great deal depends on how the eggs are candled, nothing but the best of eggs should be kept for storage.

### HUMIDITY

Humidity in egg rooms has to be watched very closely, as too much causes fungus to grow on the shell. The eggs absorb this and becomes musty and rotten. If the air is too dry the egg gives up its moisture and shrinks. To keep the moisture down, unslacked lime is used which absorbs the moisture from the air. The proper humidity point is determined by the temperature, every degree has its own humidity point; for instance, if an egg room is carried at  $28^{\circ}$ , we can have a humidity point of  $85^{\circ}$ , carried at  $30^{\circ}$  the humidity point  $78^{\circ}$ , carried at  $40^{\circ}$  humidity point  $56^{\circ}$ .

If the temperature is  $28^{\circ}$  we can have a humidity point of  $85^{\circ}$ ; this does not mean that you have 85 per cent. moisture, if you can grasp that. It is 85 per cent. of what the air could hold.

Mr. A. M. Wickens,—

If the air holds all the moisture it can carry the humidity is  $100^{\circ}$ , and at different temperatures, you get the different amounts of humidity it will carry.