

### **Instructions for Handling the Sitting Hen**

Take a fair sized box, put a few inches of earth in the bottom of it and cover it with some straw or chaff. Make a nice nest and put in a few china eggs. Put this box in a darkened place where the hen will be all by herself and away from the other hens. Select a hen that has been broody for a few days. Dust her thoroughly with insect powder, then put her into the box with the china eggs. Drop a bran bag over the front of the box to make it dark. Leave her alone for a day and then if she is sitting all right, place the dozen good eggs under her. Provide clean grain, pure water, and also some ashes for her to dust in. Take her off the nest every morning and let her eat, drink and dust herself, then see that she goes back to the nest again. Should any eggs be broken during the hatching period, the nest should be cleaned properly and the dirty and soiled eggs should be washed. Keep the rats away from the nest.



### **Instructions for Handling Eggs**

Put the egg tester on an ordinary lamp and take it to a dark room. Bring in the eggs and test them. Do not test until the ninth day. The fertile egg will have quite a large air space at the larger end of the egg, and the rest of the egg will be quite dark. You will also see rich red blood veins in the egg. The infertile egg appears almost clear and has no blood veins and a smaller air space than the fertile egg.

### **Instructions for Feeding and Rearing the Chicks**

Dust the hen with insect powder before putting her in the coop with the chicks. Feed the chicks bread crumbs and hard boiled eggs with a little charcoal mixed in. Also give them crushed wheat, pinhead oatmeal, or chick food. Give them milk to drink if you have it. Feed them at least five times a day. Move the coop every few days. Make the coop tight so the rats cannot get in and kill the chicks. Feed the chicks dry mash in a small pan four or five times a day. The dry mash is made of finely ground barley, wheat and oats, with the hulls sifted out. Add a little charcoal to it. Give them plenty of sand or fine gravel. Feed them wheat or wheat screenings when they are a few weeks old. Keep them healthy and in good growing condition. Have the coops clean. Give them as much variety in their food as possible.