

There are certain things which no Egg-tester can tell. Thus it is impossible to ascertain before an egg has been set upon whether it is fertile or not, and it is equally impossible to ascertain which egg will produce male or female birds; but after a few days' incubation it can be ascertained with the greatest certainty whether there is or is not a living embryo in the egg. To the uninitiated this may seem strange, and persons who have never performed the operation may receive our statement with credulity; the fact is none the less, however. A fresh egg placed in the position which we have described, and examined, will appear beautifully translucent, the pores of the shell will be visible, and the air channel at the larger end distinctly seen. After having been set on a few days an opaque cloud seems to spread gradually over the interior. This is caused by the extension of the blood vessels through the membranes under the shell. At the expiration of a week, the egg is perfectly opaque if it contains a chicken, otherwise it remains clear and translucent.

On the eighth day after setting, all hatching eggs should be examined by the Egg-tester, and the clear ones removed, and those that are opaque and fertile replaced under the hen. If two hens are set on the same day, the fertile ones can be given to one, and a fresh batch placed under the other. In large breeding yards this plan should always be pursued; it saves much time in needless incubation.

The Egg-tester we have described is sufficient for all ordinary purposes, but if closer inspection is desired a lens may be fitted on to the eye funnel, then with the aid of a more powerful reflector and an ordinary railway lamp or candle placed over the funnel containing the egg, the interior of the egg with all its details will become more distinctly visible.

## REARING TURKEYS.

The rearing of Turkeys is admitted to be a very difficult thing. For the first six weeks or two months the turkey chicks are excessively delicate and require during that time more than the ordinary amount of care bestowed on fowls generally. When about two months old, however, the "shooting of the red" takes place, after which they are as hardy as any other kind of fowls, and can brave any weather with impunity.

Turkeys should never be bred from near relations. If possible, the cocks and the hens should be from different places. The number of hens allowed to a cock may be unlimited, as one visit to the cock is sufficient to render all the eggs of that laying fertile.

Turkey cocks should not be used for breeding before they are two years old, but the hen may at a year old. Size in the hens is of much greater importance than in the cocks, in whom good shape, strength and spirit are of more value.

The turkey hen is a good sitter, and while kept in the coop, a careful mother. She must never be let out early in the morning with her brood, otherwise she will drag them through the wet grass and tire and exhaust them. The coop should be kept in a sheltered situation with its back to the wind, and be removed every day. The ground on which coops are placed will soon become tainted.

Mr. Trotter, whose experience in turkey-raising is admitted by all to be very extensive, says:—"The turkey chicks should not have food forced on them, at least not in the manner some do, by forcing them to swallow it. A drop of milk or water is of great service to them, and should be given by dipping the finger in the liquid and then putting the drop on the beak; this is better than dipping the beak into the milk or water, as it prevents the chick from