

groups of parasites preying upon the domestic fowl.— Fleas (*Pulex*), Lice (*Mallophaga*), and Mites (*Acarina*).

**101. Groups of Parasites.**—*Fleas.*—Only one species of flea, the bird flea (*Pulex gallinae*), lives upon the fowl. This flea is provided with a sharp, piercing mouth—it attacks the fowls at night and through causing constant irritation and loss of blood does much harm.



FIG. 31. Fowl flea (*Pulex gallinae*), greatly enlarged.

*Lice.*—The mouth of the louse differs from the mouth of the flea in that it is not sharp and used for piercing, but used simply for biting. Lice bite sharply and cause considerable pain.

*Mites.*—The most injurious form is the red fowl mite (*Dermaptyssus avium*) (Fig. 32). This mite is yellowish white to dark red in colour, according to the quantity of blood it contains. The blood is drawn from the fowls at night, and during the day the mite hides in the cracks and crevices of the house. When the chickens appear in poor health they should be examined at night, and if mites are found treatment should be resorted to.



FIG. 32. Fowl mite (*Dermaptyssus avium* and *ovum*), greatly enlarged.

**102. Prevention and Extermination.**—If the poultry house is old and contains many crevices, all the nests, roosts and other fixtures should be removed from it, and the walls and ceiling covered with paper and linewash (33). The material taken from the house should be burned. New roosting quarters (21) and inside fittings (28-30) should be placed in the house, and an additional window inserted if required.

Before the fowls return to the new house they should be thoroughly dusted with insect powder or sulphur. By dusting each fowl over a box or paper, the powder can be well rubbed among the quills of the feathers, and the excess will not be wasted.

The coal tar treatment for the destruction of the gape worm (99) can be effectively used to rid fowls of vermin. The fowls are placed in the barrel and the top of the barrel is covered. The lice are overcome by the coal tar fumes and fall to the bottom of the barrel. The bottom of the barrel should be covered with a paper so that the vermin can be destroyed.