

time as the eggs are held before a light the infertile eggs will appear uniformly bright while the fertile eggs will show a dark spot with a cloudy portion around it. At the second test which is for the purpose of detecting the dead germs, an egg with a live germ will have the appearance much the same as that on the 7th day only the germ will appear larger and darker, probably one-half of the egg will appear dark and the air space will be larger. The dead germ may not appear much larger than when seen at the first test which would indicate that it had not grown as the others had, it also may be stuck to the shell and look like a red streak or, as it is called, a blood ring. All of these should be discarded as they will not develop into chicks.

Practice only will make one perfect in testing and it is a good plan to crack an egg occasionally to see what is inside and if you are not sure whether the germ is alive or not and do not want to break the egg, mark it so that you will know what it looked like, when you see whether it hatches or not.

GOOD BREEDING STOCK.

The incubator is often blamed for poor results for which it is not responsible. The eggs from breeding stock that are lacking in vitality will never give satisfactory results in the incubator and what few chicks are fortunate enough to get out of the shell are almost sure to die in the brooder. The first essential then of a good hatch is to have healthy vigorous breeding birds. To this end see that the eggs are well fertilized, gathered promptly and set as fresh as possible.

THINGS WORTH REMEMBERING.

Good healthy breeding stock is more than half a successful hatch. The fresher the egg the better the chance of a good hatch. Do not let broody hens sit on the eggs before being gathered nor allow the eggs to become chilled. If eggs have to be kept several days before incubation it is better to keep them in a covered box or pail, not in an open basket as it allows too much evaporation. Keep them in a fairly even temperature of from 50 to 60 degrees Fahr. Select only normal eggs, discarding the long, the round, the rough or thin shell, the double yoked and all others that have any marked peculiarity. Be careful of rough handling at the first of the hatch, treatment that will do no harm towards the end of the hatch might kill every germ the first day or two.

It is better not to interfere with the eggs after the 18th day but keep the temperature up and as a rule better results will be obtained if the chicks are not allowed to drop into the nursery drawer. The difference in the temperature between the egg tray and the nursery drawer is too much for the young chicks and especially if they are not perfectly dry or if they fall through the trap a few at a time. If the chicks are crowding in the egg tray open the door and put those that are dry and smart below into the nursery drawer. A number going into the nursery at the same time will not prove so dangerous and if the work is done quickly in a fairly warm room the opening of the door should not be detrimental to the rest of the hatch.

Hens should be mated from 6 to 10 days before using the eggs for incubating and the influence of the male will last about the same length of time after he is removed. There is no benefit derived from resting eggs after travelling, better put them into the incubator as soon as possible.

In conclusion do not blame the incubator for poor results when the breeding stock is unhealthy or the eggs badly handled. Give the incubator a fair chance and under most conditions it will produce good healthy chicks.