

This mushroom is umbrella-shaped with a cap or pileus corresponding to the cover of the umbrella. This cap is white with fine brownish threads over the surface. The cap is usually 2 to 4 inches wide. On the under side of the cap are the gills, a series of thin plates standing on edge and radiating from the center and free from the stem. When young these gills are pink but, as the mushroom becomes old, they turn brown to blackish brown. The cap is supported by a stem or stipe, which is usually white or with a slight

which forms the ring when the mushroom is mature; gills at first pink and later becoming brown or blackish brown.

Any mushroom having these characters may be eaten with safety.

Figure 1 shows the common cultivated mushroom.

SOME DEADLY POISONOUS MUSHROOMS OR TOADSTOOLS

The Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*, Linn.)—Fig. 2.

Figure 2 shows one of the deadly



FIG. 1.—COMMON CULTIVATED MUSHROOM. (*Agaricus campestris*, Linn.)

tinge of brown. The stipe is nearly solid or somewhat spongy within, from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ inches thick and 2 to 4 inches long. When the mushroom is young, the gills are hidden by a veil which stretches from the edge of the cap to the stipe. When the mushroom expands this veil is broken from the edge of the cap and forms a ring on the stem. The plant grows in fields and lawns.

The main points to remember about this mushroom are: Cap and stem white, with slight tinges of brown; when young the gills hidden by a veil

poisonous mushrooms, the Fly Agaric. At first sight it looks much like the common mushroom. It has a cap, stipe, gills, ring, but there are these differences: In the Fly Agaric the cap is usually yellow or orange with many loose scales on the top. The scales may be easily brushed away or may be washed off by light showers. The gills are *White* and *remain white* when the mushroom is mature. The stipe is white, as is also the large conspicuous ring. *At the base of the stipe or stem there is a large shaggy or scaly bulb*