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The Press Poultry Department
Conducted by H. S. Canon, Magalia, Calif.

Send questions for this department direct to Mr. Canon to insure prompt answers.

Artificial Incubation.

At the same time the eggs are cooled, they should be turned. The reason for turning them is this: The yolk floating on the white is always in contact with the part of the shell that is uppermost. If the egg were to lay in the same position all the time, the thin tissue which surrounds the yolk would adhere to the lining of the shell where they come in contact, and if the chick lived and developed till it was able to move, its movements would tear the delicate tissue surrounding the yolk and it would soon die. Or if the egg was moved to another position after the yolk had adhered to the shell the same thing would result. However, if the egg is turned each day, the yolk is brought into contact with the shell in a different place, and will not have time to adhere before it is moved again.

The hen turns the eggs she is sitting on at least once a day. A whole turn is not necessary—a quarter turn being sufficient to insure contact between yolk and shell at a different point. Eggs which are being saved for hatching should also be turned once a day for the same reason, and should not be held longer than two weeks. After that length of time, each successive day lessens the chance of the egg producing a strong livable chick.

There is one more point I wish to bring up before closing and that is one of considerable importance—moisture.

If the air in the room where the incubator is placed is dry, the eggs will naturally lose a portion of the water they contain. The embryo chick during the formative period cannot breathe, so its supply of air is received through minute pores in the shell of the egg. The shell being porous, allows the water in the egg to evaporate if the air in the egg chamber is too dry. Therefore moisture must be supplied when necessary, yet it must not be put in when it is not necessary.

Until recently there was but one way to tell when moisture was needed. When testing the eggs take particular notice of the air cell in the large end of the egg. It is a little chamber filled with air which the chick utilizes when it first begins to breathe, about the end of the 19th or the beginning of the 20th day. If the air cell is too large, the egg is drying down and the moisture pans should be put in. When the air cell has become normal again, the moisture is no longer needed and should be taken out as too

much moisture will make the cell too small. comparison of the eggs in the incubator with one known to be perfectly fresh, by means of the tester will show whether the cells are larger or smaller than they should be.

The recent invention of an instrument called the hygrometer, which indicates the amount of moisture the air in the egg chamber contains, simplifies the moisture question, especially for the novice who may find it difficult to determine, at first, when the air cell is normal.

Preserving Eggs.

By far the best method of preserving eggs when they are plentiful and cheap, for use when they are scarce and high, is the water-glass or silicate of soda method.

It can hardly be termed cold storage, since the term cold storage as generally used, refers to the practice of storing anything in rooms where the temperature is artificially lowered by the use of ice. In the water-glass method it is the closing of the pores in the shell rather than the low temperature of the egg which causes it to keep in good condition.

A cool place, however, is necessary, a cellar or other place where the temperature remains even at all times—from 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Water-glass is put up under several trade names, or it may be bought in bulk at any drug store, and costs about \$1 per gallon. One gallon makes 12 gallons of the solution, and will preserve 75 or 80 dozen eggs.

The eggs must be fresh and clean, and have sound shells, for a cracked egg will spoil in the solution, and will spoil others near it.

Pack the eggs little end down in layers in wooden or earthenware vessels. Then mix one part of the water-glass with 11 parts of boiling water, stir thoroughly, and let it cool. Then pour the cold solution over the eggs carefully, allowing it to come about two inches over the tops of the eggs.

Do not disturb until ready to begin using, but they should be examined occasionally to see that the solution has not evaporated and left some of the eggs exposed to the air. If it does evaporate, pour in water which has been boiled and allowed to cool.

They will keep in excellent condition for six or eight months, and may be used for all purposes for which a fresh egg is used. They look and taste like a fresh egg, and do not have the musty odor and taste which is characteristic of the cold storage egg. Neither do they dry down as the cold storage eggs do, but come out of the solution as heavy and wholesome as a fresh egg.

Mrs. Harriet McCreery, mother of Mrs. Eastwood of this city, has started on a trip to Kent, and Tacoma, Washington.

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