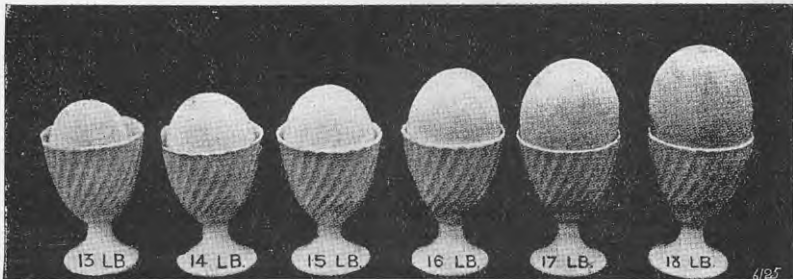


to accumulate for weeks, the wonder is that fowls kept under such conditions are as free from disease as they are. In my experience it is not on the properly managed poultry plant where disease makes its unwelcome appearance, even though there are hundreds of birds to the same acre of ground from season to season. The trouble comes where the birds have freer range, but are housed in unsanitary buildings and are not fed well and systematically, or attended to as they should be.

SIZE OF EGGS.

The only argument against high-type layers with anything in it is that their eggs are often on the small side. Of course, there are exceptional cases where heavy producers lay eggs of a decent weight, but unfortunately the tendency is in the other direction. It is only natural to suppose that if the number of eggs is the sole aim of the breeder that the eggs produced will decline in size. To win a competition where the objective is the largest number of eggs laid in twelve months, competitors



STANDARDIZATION OF EGGS.

are naturally only concerned in the number produced, providing, of course, the eggs are not below $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.—a weight, however, which means such a small size that the stipulation need not be considered. This means that breeders in general are aiming at the one objective in their work of selection, and are thereby failing to counteract a tendency which must in the near future have a very harmful effect on many strains of utility poultry. The remedy is simple. Just as heavy laying quality may be maintained and advanced by judicious mating, so the size of the egg may be maintained or increased by the same process. A hen, however good a layer, should not be put in a breeding-pen if it lays a very small egg. The birds laying the best eggs should be chosen, providing, of course, their laying-capacity is satisfactory, and they exhibit the desired constitution. The Australians are giving us a lead in this matter. In several of their competitions prizes are offered for the highest weight of eggs produced, and in visiting many of the leading Commonwealth breeders pens of birds were