

tinguishing mark for the determination of age, strain, &c., is to take a V-shaped piece out of the edge of the web of the foot. This should be done with a very sharp penknife, the foot of the duckling being held on a piece of solid board during the operation. Disappointment will generally result from using the ordinary chicken-marker for ducklings. The holes will invariably close up, though apparently obliterated marks may often be distinguished by holding the duck's foot in the line of light.

#### DUCKLINGS DEAD IN SHELL.

Another correspondent wants to know the cause of a large percentage of ducklings dying in the shell during incubation. This trouble is generally due to insufficient moisture, or not applying it in a proper manner; while sometimes the condition of the breeding-stock may be responsible. The best system of applying moisture to duck-eggs is to spray water at a temperature of  $103^{\circ}$  on them every morning after the fourteenth day (with the mouth will serve the purpose). Do this after the eggs have been turned, and immediately place them back in the machine. Never cool after spraying. Spray in the morning and cool at night. Care must be taken that the ventilation vents are open, so that any excess of moisture can get away.

#### THINGS TO REMEMBER.

Learning how to prevent poultry diseases is of greater importance than learning how to cure them.

The first essential in preventing disease is selecting breeding-stock possessed of a sound constitution.

In planning out a poultry plant every provision should be made for saving of labour.

There is much to be lost and nothing to be gained by the practice of underfeeding the laying-hen.

It is always a wise policy to have on hand a reserve male for the breeding-pen.

Dirty and draughty houses, stale runs, and low feeding are an invitation to disease.

Avoid crosses as much as possible, and breed with purebred birds on each side when it is possible to do so.

Forcing the breeders for egg-production is generally followed by poor fertility of eggs, bad hatches, and loss of chickens at the brooder stage.