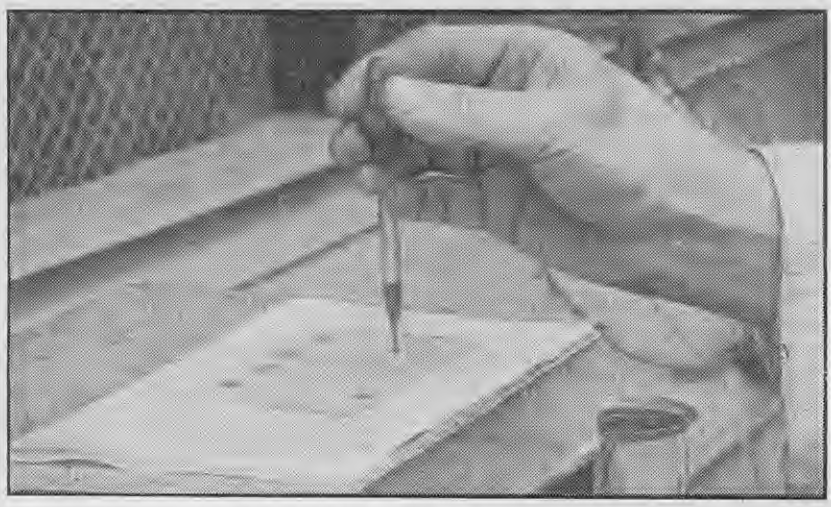

Fig. 2—Plating out the antigen.

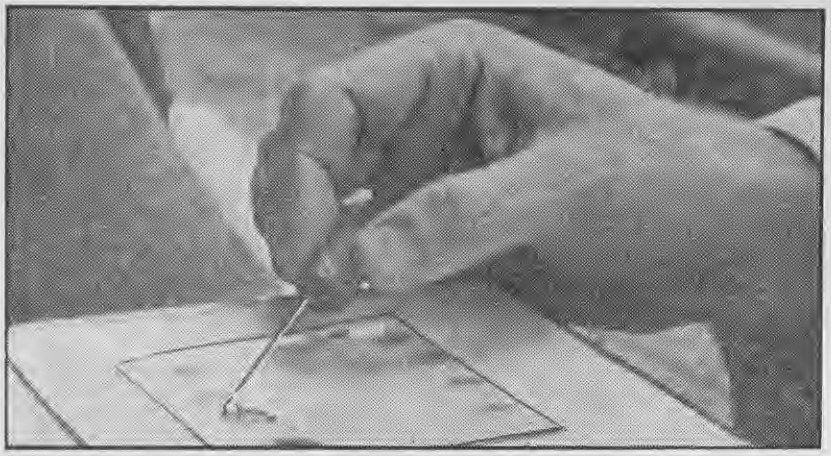

Fig. 3—Blood is added to the antigen.

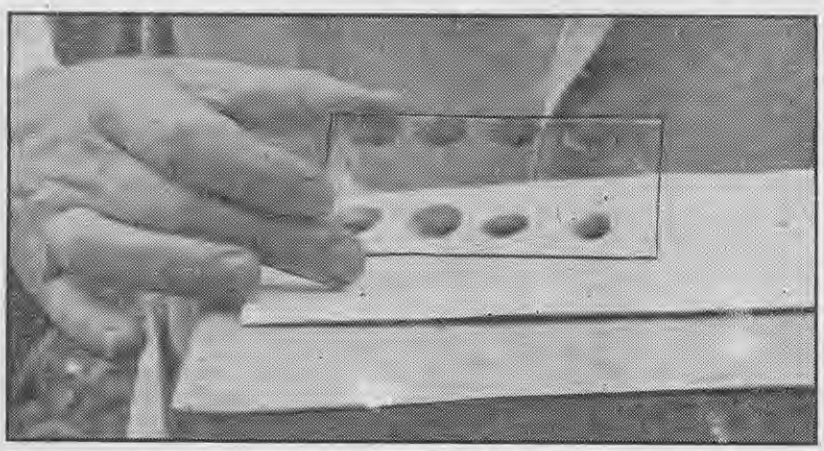

Fig. 4—Tilting the plate to aid glutination.

**A small charge is made for the antigen required for the test, but the work of testing is done free by Departmental officers.**

## When to Have Birds Tested

Birds should be tested while their ovaries are active—that is, while they are in lay. The primary object of testing is to ensure that no birds included in a breeding pen are infected with pullorum disease. Therefore it is customary to test all birds set aside as probable breeders, and, as the initial selection of such birds usually takes place early in the year, blood testing is in full swing between January and June.

The testing of breeding stock undoubtedly gives reasonable protection against outbreaks during the rearing season, but unquestionably, if a poultry producer wishes to rid his flock completely of pullorum infection, hens and pullets alike should be tested annually. The testing of in-lay pullets presents some difficulties, and any producer contemplating testing all the birds on his farm should first discuss the subject with the poultry instructor for his district.

Tested and untested birds should never be brought into contact with each other, nor should tested birds be run in a house on litter used by untested stock. Infected birds among the untested stock are likely to infect healthy tested birds.

**Reactors should not be retained on the farm. It is obvious that reactors sold through public auctions or to any person who may use them for breeding purposes are likely to spread the disease and thereby undo much of the good accruing to the industry from the present drive to reduce its incidence in New Zealand.**

## The Disease in New Zealand

There are some indications that the virulence or deadliness of pullorum disease in New Zealand is less than in some other poultry-producing countries. A breeding flock in, say, the United Kingdom containing more than 10 to 15 per cent. of reactors will produce chickens among which pullorum outbreaks will occur sporadically or even with each hatch. In New Zealand, on the other hand, greater percentages of reactors have been found in breeding flocks where chick rearing has been reported to be satisfactory. In such cases it is usually observed that the poultry producer is a good chick rearer and has efficient rearing housing and equipment. Day-old chicks sold from such a farm and reared less efficiently frequently show increased mortality, which laboratory investigation proves to be caused by pullorum infection.