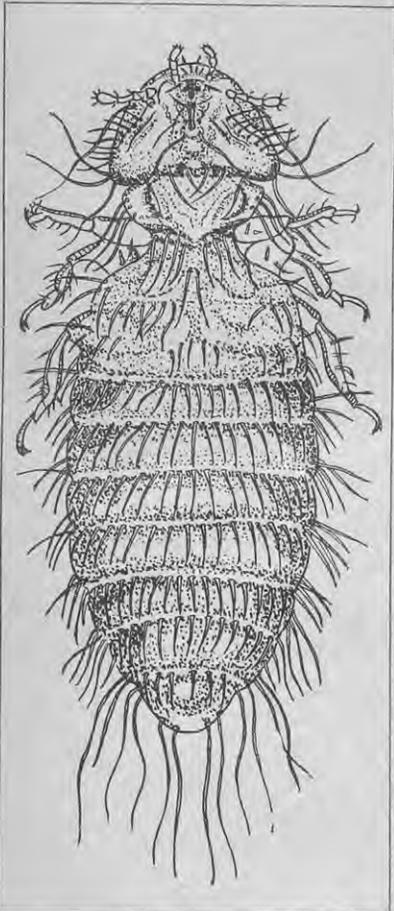


from time to time. At night they leave these hiding places to crawl along the perches and on to the fowls, where they cause irritation and loss of condition by sucking blood.

Fortunately infestations, though common, can be dealt with easily by spraying the inside of the house with either kerosene or creosote, taking particular care to see that the liquid thoroughly penetrates all crevices and perch sockets. Perches should always be detachable, and the ends should be well soaked in the liquid, the whole perch also being sprayed. Creosote has the advantage that it preserves the woodwork as well as destroying the mite, but it makes the interior of the house very dark. If it is used, it is as well to paint or spray the outside of the house with it at the same time, or the mites may retreat before the advancing tide of destruction and escape. The house being then thoroughly coated with preservative, a double purpose will have been served. For the destruction of the parasite similar considerations apply to treatment with kerosene, but apart from that spraying the outsides of houses with kerosene would serve no useful purpose and would be extremely expensive.



[After Reis and Nobrega in "Diseases of Poultry," Collegiate Press, Iowa, U.S.A.]

A male common poultry louse.

After the house has been treated the birds can be given a single fumigation with 40 per cent. nicotine sulphate, as described for lice, to destroy any mites which were on them at the time and thus escaped the spraying.

Recent overseas experiments in which houses infested with red mite were sprayed with D.D.T. are reported to have achieved most promising results, one spraying with a 1 per cent. solution having been sufficient to destroy heavy infestations. The D.D.T. apparently has a powerful after-effect, killing any mites setting foot on sprayed surfaces for a considerable time after they have been treated. It is rather early at present to recommend this for general use, but if it becomes possible to try it in New Zealand, the results may be reported later.

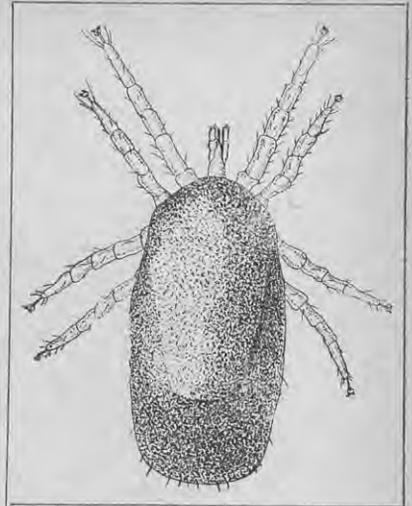
To prevent red mite infestation the first consideration is to ensure that the house is well lit by adequate window space and, where possible, by whitewashing of the inside walls. Dark and dismal interiors favour the development of the parasites, which dislike strong light. Of almost equal importance is having all perches detachable so that they can be removed and inspected frequently and treated if necessary. An infestation can build up very rapidly without being noticed, so a sharp watch should be kept for the mites.

### Scaly Leg

A form of mange, scaly leg is caused by a very small 8-legged itch mite which burrows and feeds under the scales of the legs. It is similar to scabies of man and mange of dogs and cats, which are also caused by mites burrowing under the skin. In scaly leg the parasite spends all its time on the infested bird, breeding and laying eggs in the tunnels and channels caused by its burrowing, where the eggs hatch and the young mites grow to maturity. The irritation which results is intense, causing loss of condition, sometimes lameness, and the formation of powdery crusts beneath and between the scales, which are raised from the surface, causing the legs to look thicker than normal.

Fortunately the parasites which cause this trouble are easily destroyed. A common and well-known remedy is to dip the legs of affected birds twice or three times a week in ordinary kerosene, which will penetrate the damaged tissue and kill the mites. If time permits, it is better first to soak the legs in warm, soapy water to soften the crusts and scales and assist penetration by the kerosene. As kerosene is rather severe in its effects, the use of 1 part of kerosene to 2 parts of raw linseed oil is safer, and even that is extremely irritant, so care should be taken that it does not get on the skin of the leg above the scales or on any other part of the body.

If the kerosene is applied every few days, usually a cure is soon effected. A watch should be kept to see that the condition does not recur, but no further trouble should be experienced if it has not gone too far in the first instance.



[After U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Bulletin reproduced in "Diseases of Poultry," Collegiate Press, Iowa, U.S.A.]

A female red mite, greatly engorged with blood after feeding (much magnified).

### Depluming Scabies

Another form of mange, depluming scabies occurs extensively overseas and may cause trouble in New Zealand. It results from the activities of another very small itch mite which lives and feeds at the bases of the feathers, causing such intense irritation that the affected bird pulls out its own feathers, though other causes may also result in fowls losing their feathers. If the existence of this form of mange is established, generally it yields readily to repeated applications of sulphur ointment, obtainable from any chemist, and made by mixing 1 part of finely-divided sulphur thoroughly with 4 parts of petroleum jelly or lard.

This article, though by no means complete, covers most of the external parasites which commonly affect poultry. Anybody desiring further information, or help with a particular case, should communicate with the Department of Agriculture Veterinarian for the district or with the Poultry Instructor. In case of a serious outbreak of poultry disease the owner should communicate with the Poultry Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 3004, Wellington.

### Pig Broadcasts

UNDER the auspices of District Pig Councils broadcasts will be delivered in February as under:—

Auckland—1YA, on February 22, at 12.35 p.m., "Good Housing Pays," by H. H. Preston, Supervisor, Northland District Pig Council.

Napier—2YZ, on February 11, at 7.15 p.m., "The Correct Approach to Winter Feeding," by H. A. Hopkins, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.