

CORRESPONDENCE

"TOORAK,"

24 SYDNEY ROAD,
GUILDFORD.

14th December, 1942.

Dear Colonel Bell,

I notice in the current number of the *Journal* you ask for particulars of Egg Sexing by Dowsing methods.

The following is a test I did early this year.

One of my patients, who is a grain merchant, and also has a poultry farm, once saw me doing a blood test. He asked if there was any possibility of sexing eggs before putting them in an incubator, and if so, would I do some for him. I agreed to test a batch with a view to proving an article in a poultry journal wrong.

A batch or three dozen eggs was in due course placed before me, and my test resulted as follows:—

Hens ...	...	...	28
Cockerels	...	...	5
Unfertile	...	...	3

When handing these back to the owner I taxed him with having put one Preserved Egg in the batch, with a view to tripping me up. He said that *all* were New Laid and that no trick had been played on me. My reason for taxing him was that I could not get a definite reading on one of the eggs, and therefore put it down as unfertile. It appears that an egg had been broken in the nest and another egg had become coated with the broken one.

In due time twenty-nine chicks hatched out as follows:—

Hens ...	...	...	25
Cockerels	...	...	4

Two eggs were definitely unfertile. The other five bore traces of something that could not be determined.

It is interesting to note that the egg on which I could not get a proper reading, turned out a beautiful hen.

I recently had a dozen Ducks' Eggs put under a Hen. Ten came out. I tested them when a day old and pronounced seven ducks and three drakes. This has proved quite correct. Lovely Khaki Campbells.

In my tests I have used the Magnetic Needle Pendulum.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM R. BONE,