



One of the setter rooms (note the central drains which are also shown in the picture to the right) and, above right, inside one of the Linco Set and Hatch setters. The picture on the left shows the humidity generator.



clean the next morning and the result is much cleaner chick boxes.

The whole hatchery is colour coded into 'clean' and 'dirty' halves and no equipment moves between the two halves and, as has already been stated, should staff need to move between areas they have to change clothes, footwear and wash their hands.

Another feature that Mølbjergs regard as counterproductive when it comes to the production of top quality chicks is an egg bank. By careful planning this has been eliminated and now eggs are all set at an optimum age and this, Mølbjergs feel, is when the eggs have been in the hatchery store for one or two days.

At all stages from the farm to the customer the progress of all eggs (and chicks) can be plotted on the company's computer system and analyses of all the data associated with each hatch enables the company to find which management approaches and

decisions result in the best performance and chicks.

Aspects of Linco Set and Hatch's equipment have been found to come into play here. One of these is their design feature on the setter trolleys that incorporates the heating coil on the trolley. As these trolleys are also used for holding the eggs during storage and the pre-incubation stage it means these heater elements can be used to provide a very precisely controlled pre-warm of seven hours before incuba-

into the basic layout and design of the hatchery and its work routines, which has impacted positively on hygiene and chick quality, what is really impressive is the attention to detail in the hatchery that enables management to maintain the highest of hygiene standards at all times. This can be seen in all areas from the neat and methodically laid out offices and staff facilities right through to the incubator rooms and the chick handling facilities.

Mølbjergs' management have questioned every aspect of hatchery management to see if they can make it better.

Instead of having waste bins for staff to empty and cart through the hatchery they operate a system of vacuum linked waste collection points. At these points staff put any waste into a receptor unit and it is sucked away by vacuum to a central waste collection facility.

They realised that the immediate washing of chick boxes was not very effective so they devised a system in which, when the chick boxes return from the farm, they are soaked and regularly sprayed with disinfectant and left to stand over night.

They are then much easier to

The computerised egg transfer system.

