The illustrated machine includes a container 10 in which a perforate basket 11 containing a quantity of eggs is placed. The basket 11 is preferably of an open wire construction which will provide the minimum resistance to the recirculation of cleaning solution. The basket 11 is supported on a frame generally indicated at 12 which includes the radially-extending horizontal members 13, 14, 15, and 16, and also includes vertically-arranged legs as indicated at 17, 18, and 19 in Figure 1. Imperforate cylindrical sections 20 and 21 surround the legs, and are separated by the filter screen 22. The net effect of the frame 12 is not only to support the basket 11 in spaced relationship above the bottom 23 of the container, but to provide a conduit for a stream of liquid within the container so that the flow thereof induced by the propeller 24 is directed upwardly through the eggs contained in the basket 11. As this recirculating flow progresses, it moves radially outward at the top toward the sides of the container 12. The flow then moves downwardly along the sides of the container toward the bottom, and from there radially inward through the screen 22 and into the propeller area where upward flow is again resumed. During this recirculating flow, foreign material washed from the eggs within the basket 11 is entrapped on the outside of the screen 22. The entire frame 12 including the screen 22 may be removed readily for cleaning.

A bearing unit 25 is secured to the bottom 23 of the container by bolts as indicated at 26 and 27 in Figure 1. A shaft 28 supports the propeller 24, which is secured in position by the bolt 29. A motor unit indicated at 30 is mounted on the bracket 31 secured to the base frame 32, and drives the shaft 28 through the coupling indicated at 33.

A drain outlet 34 provided with a valve 35 is mounted in the bottom 23 of the container, and the recirculation of the liquid within the container is maintained through the action of the electric heating element indicated at 36. A heater thermostat 37 controls the action of the heating element 36, and a thermometer 38 is preferably incorporated for recording the temperature of the liquid within the container 10. A relatively compact electric junction box 39 is mounted on the lower frame 32, and power is distributed from it to the heater thermostat 37 by a cable indicated at 40, and to the motor 30 by the cable 41. A cable 42 terminates in a plug 43 for engagement with a power receptacle in the conventional manner. The machine is preferably provided with casters as indicated at 44 and 45 for ease of maneuvering.

The particular embodiments of this invention which have been illustrated and described herein are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be considered as a limitation upon the scope of the appended claim. In this claim, it is my intent to claim the entire invention disclosed herein except as I am limited by the prior art.

I claim:

An egg-washing machine, comprising: a container for liquid; bearing means intersecting the bottom of said container and disposed on a normally vertical axis; a shaft rotatably mounted in said bearing means; a motor means mounted on said shaft and disposed within said container; motor means mounted exteriorly of said container and operative to drive said shaft; removable supporting frame means establishing a perforate platform above said container bottom; filter means on said supporting frame defining a space around said motor means and underneath said supporting means; means forming a conduit normally above said motor means and extending normally upwardly to a point adjacent said perforate platform, and communicating with said space defined by said filter means; and perforate basket means normally disposed on top of said supporting frame means,
the bottom of said basket means being substantially co-extensive with the adjacent portion of said conduit, said propeller means maintaining a recirculating flow of liquid upwardly through the central portion of said basket means, down along the sides of said container, and thence inward along the bottom of said container through said filter means.

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