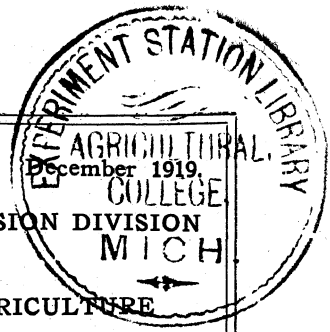


Circular No. 112.

OKLAHOMA A. AND M. COLLEGE—EXTENSION DIVISION
Stillwater, Oklahoma
In Cooperation With the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
States Relations Service
JAS. A. WILSON
Director and State Agent



POULTRY HOUSES FOR OKLAHOMA

By M. R. BENTLEY, Extension Farm Engineer
And CHAS. M. SMITH, Assistant in Charge of Poultry Clubs

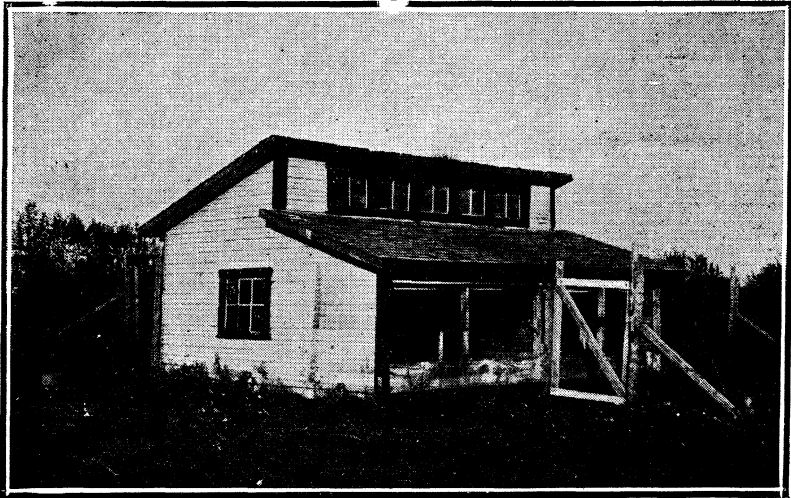


Figure 1—Semi-Monitor Poultry House Used on the Oklahoma A. and M. College Farm

POULTRY HOUSES FOR OKLAHOMA

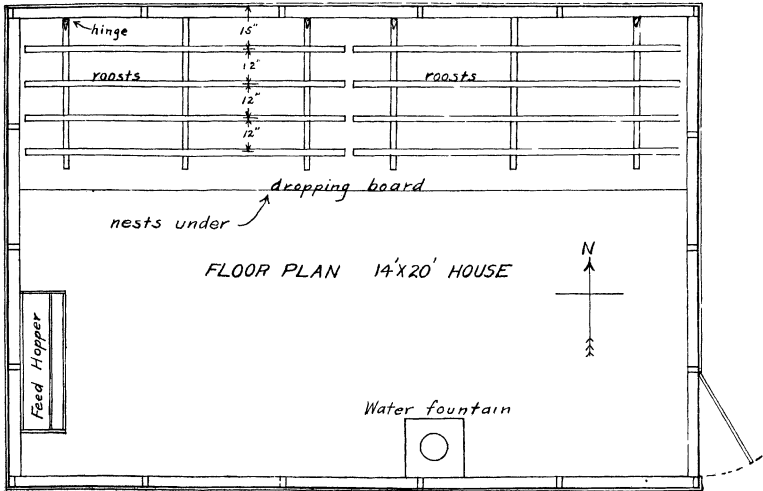


Figure 2—Floor Plan of a Shed-Roof Poultry House

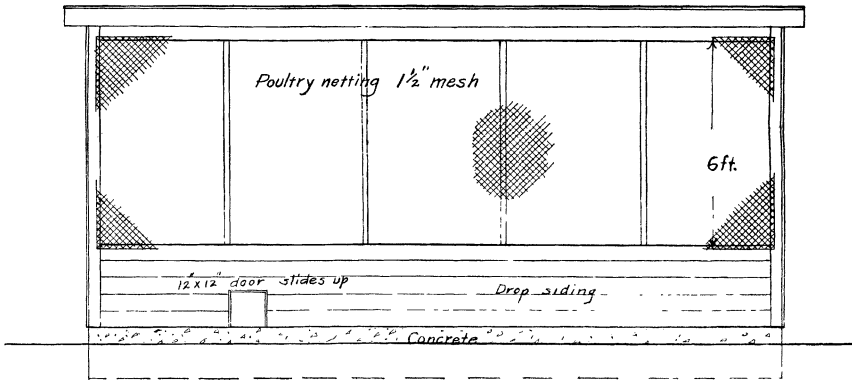


Figure 3—South Side of Shed-Roof Poultry House

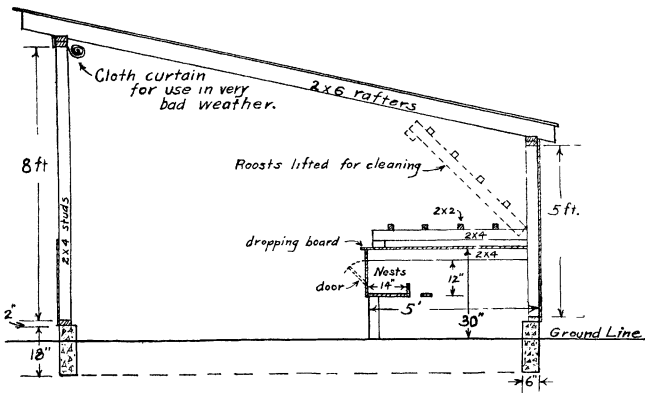


Figure 4—Section of Shed-Roof Poultry House

The importance of a properly constructed poultry house is being realized by many of the poultry-raisers of the state.

A good poultry house costs but little more than any other kind. Often an old house may be remodeled with but little expense and wonderfully improved.

Some of the important features of a good house are plenty of sunlight, roosts free from drafts, dry warm floors, plenty of fresh air, proof against rats and varmints, and dropping boards.

Sunlight may be had in a house by means of an open front to the south, by the semi-monitor roof, or by both.

The entire south side of a house may be left open, except for poultry netting or screen, if the other sides of the house are tight so that there will be no drafts through the house.

With three sides of the house tight, and the roosts built several feet from the open side there will

not be any appreciable draft strike the fowls. The open side lets in plenty of fresh air.

The cheapest floor, and in some ways the best, is the dirt floor. If the dirt floor is somewhat higher than the surrounding ground level it will be warm and dry. A concrete floor is more permanent, but is cold. A concrete floor should be covered during the cool months with at least three inches of sand or chaff.

A board floor is almost necessary where a house is made portable. Shiplap makes a very good floor for a house. If the floor is high enough from the ground to let cats or dogs under it, there is usually no trouble from rats.

The dirt floor house may be made proof against rats either by putting a concrete foundation under it, which goes into the ground a foot or more, or by burying small-mesh poultry netting around the edges of the house. Poultrymen who have used 1-inch mesh netting 18 inches wide for this purpose have had no further trouble from rats and varmints.

THE SHED-ROOF HOUSE

One of the simplest houses to build is the shed-roof type. The roof should slope to the north so as to put the high side of the building to the south. When the most of the south side is left open, the building should be from 14 to 20 feet wide so that the roosts will be several feet away from this open side. The ends and the north side should be made tight so as to prevent drafts. If openings are made in these walls they should have tight-fitting doors for winter use. A board is sometimes hinged just under the eaves on the north side of the house. This is very good for use in hot weather, but it should be fitted tight so it will close without leaving cracks. This hinged board vent is hardly necessary with an open-front house.

Figure 2 shows a floor plan of a shed-roof house. A building of these dimensions will house from 75 to 100 hens, depending on the size of the hens. A space on the roost of from 9 to 12 inches per hen is allowed. About 3 square feet of floor space is allowed per fowl, which is considered ample in an open-front house.

Figure 3 shows the south side of this house. It is boarded up about 2½ feet to keep out rats and varmints. If rats are very bad it may be necessary to put a strip of tin about a foot wide over this boarded-up portion to keep the rats from crawling up it.

Figure 4 shows a sectional view of the shed-roof house. A concrete foundation and a dirt floor are shown. This house may be made movable, as is shown with the small semi-monitor house, or may have a concrete floor. Concrete floors should slope to the front about an inch per 10 feet so that any water getting on them will drain out. Notice that the roosts are hinged so that they may be lifted while cleaning. The dropping board under the roosts makes cleaning much easier. The nests shown in this figure are under the front edge of the dropping board. The hens enter the nests from the rear. The eggs may be reached by opening the door. This door may be a board extending across several nests.

Figure 5 shows an end view of this house. The walls may be made of drop-siding, shiplap or 1×12 boards with the cracks stripped. Drop-siding is probably the best. However, 1×12 boards may be nailed up and down and the wall framing done away with. Hollow tile and concrete are being used for poultry house walls in many cases.

THE SEMI-MONITOR HOUSE

Figure 6 shows a sectional view of a semi-monitor poultry house. This shows the house with a shiplap floor and with runners under it so that it is portable. It may be put on a concrete foundation and a dirt floor used, or it may have a concrete floor. A hinged board for ventilation is shown at the rear of the house just under the eaves. It is better to leave this wall without a door in it than to have a door with cracks around it.

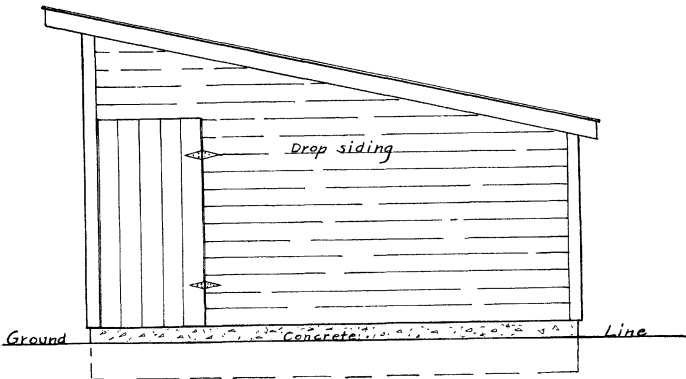


Figure 5—End View of Shed-Roof Poultry House

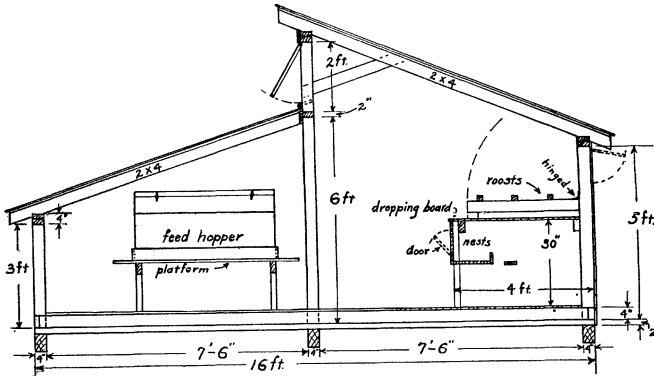


Figure 6—Section of Semi-Monitor House

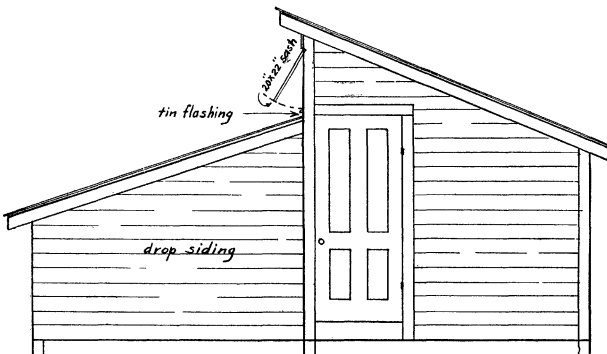


Figure 7—End View of Semi-Monitor House

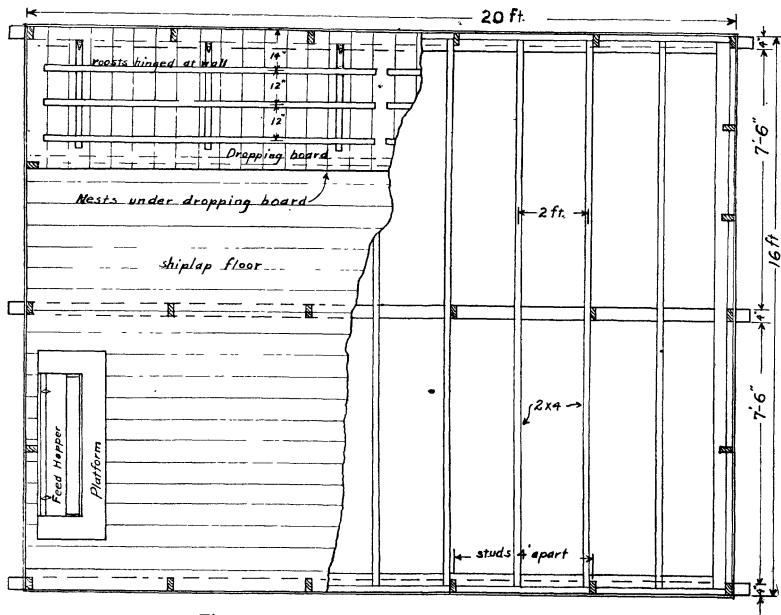


Figure 8—Floor Plan of a Semi-Monitor House

Figure 7 shows an end view of the semi-monitor house. The sashes under the high eaves are hinged to open outward for ventilation during the summer months.

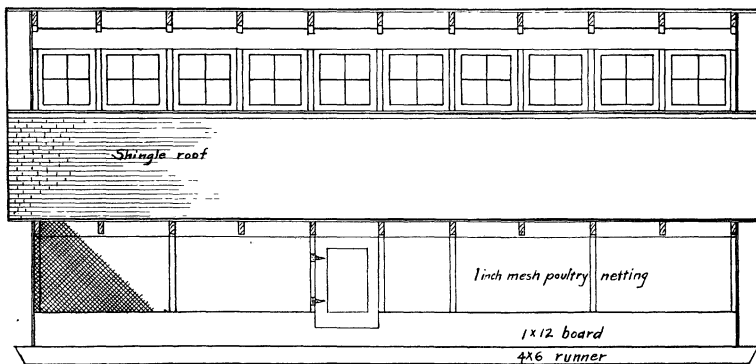


Figure 9—South Side of Semi-Monitor House

Figure 8 shows the floor plan of the semi-monitor house. This house may well be 20 to 24 feet wide instead of 16 feet, as the windows let the sunlight reach the back part of the house. If it is made wider there can be four or five roost poles instead of three.

Figure 9 shows the south side of the semi-monitor house. About half of the sashes shown are often omitted and that portion of the wall boarded up solid.

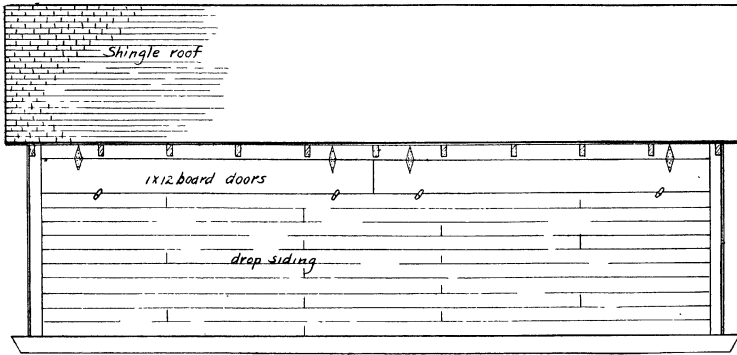


Figure 10—North Side of Semi-Monitor House

Figure 10 shows the north side of the semi-monitor house. It may be found economical to cover the roof of the house with a felt roofing instead of shingles in sections of the state where hailstorms are not frequent.

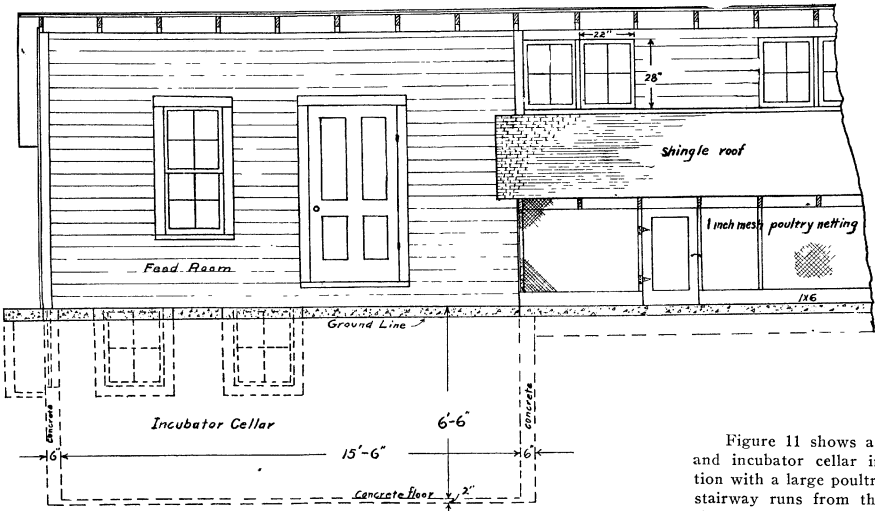


Figure 11—Feed House and Incubator. Cellar in Connection with a Large Poultry House

Figure 11 shows a feed room and incubator cellar in combination with a large poultry house. A stairway runs from the inside of the feed room down into the cellar. A door connects the feed room with the poultry house. The poultry house may be extended as far as is necessary to house the flock. A house that is as much as 40 feet long should have a partition in it to prevent drafts from one end of the house to the other. Long houses should have these partitions every twenty or thirty feet. The partitions may be made of boards, or of boards up about four feet, and then muslin on up. In building a very long house it would probably be more convenient to put the feed room and incubator cellar in the middle and run the house each way from it.

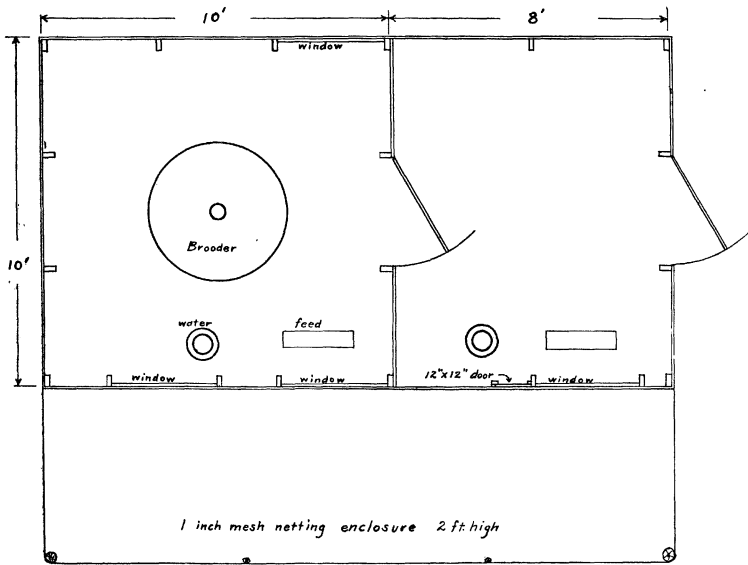


Figure 12—Floor Plan of Brooder House

Figure 13 shows a section of the brooder house. This house should have a tight floor in it. Coal, kerosene or natural gas may be used as fuel in the brooder stove. The conical cover is lifted off the stove by means of a little rope running over some pulleys in the top of the room.

Figure 14 shows the south side of the brooder house. Large windows are put in this side of the house to let in sunlight. It is well to have a vent in the top of the brooder room so that the temperature of the room may be controlled and the foul air allowed to escape. This vent should have a door which can be easily opened or closed.

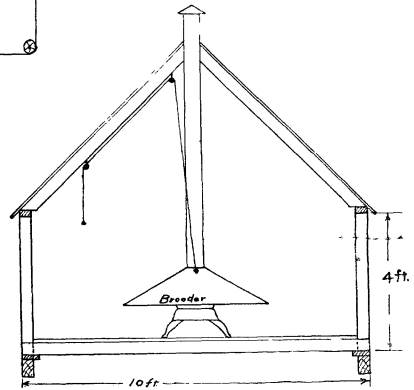


Figure 13—Section of Brooder House

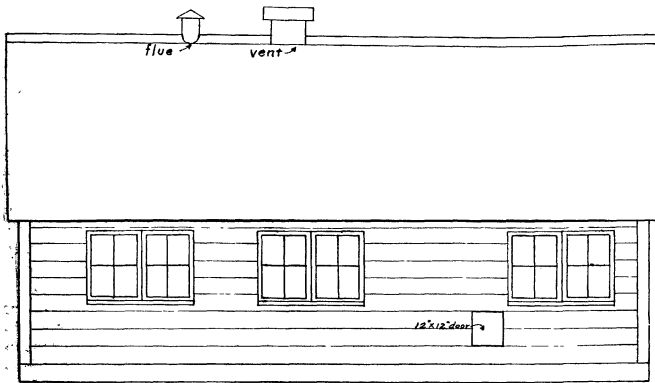


Figure 14—South Side of Brooder House

Figure 12 shows the floor plan of a brooder house. It is almost necessary to have a building of this kind where a large number of chickens are hatched in incubators. The stove is put in a room which may be kept warm without a great deal of fire. Adjoining the brooder room is another room which is kept cooler than the brooder room so that the chickens may go into it and gradually get used to a cooler temperature. The door between these rooms has a 6-inch board hinged at the bottom of it which is raised up when the chickens are to be turned into the cooler room. If this door is kept shut except for the 6-inch opening at the bottom and a piece of muslin is hung over this opening, the brooder room will stay warm. After the chickens are old enough to turn out, a door is opened into the netting enclosure on the south side of the house.

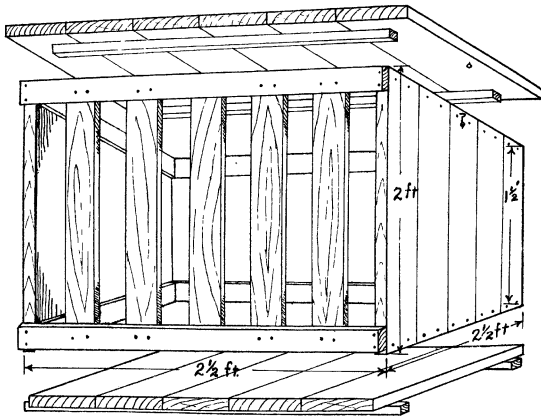


Figure 15—Brood Coop for Hen and Chickens

Figure 15 shows a simple brood coop for a hen and chickens. The bottom of this coop fits just inside the coop, and is not fastened to it. The top is fastened down by means of a screen hook on each side of the coop. One of the slats in the front is left loose so that it may be slipped out.

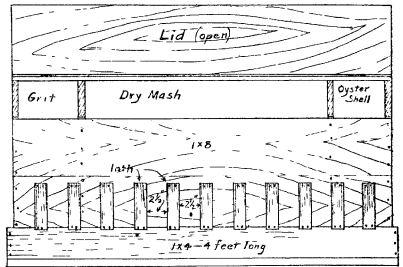


Figure 18—Dry Mash Hopper

Figure 18 shows a dry mash hopper for use inside the poultry house. The hopper is usually set on a platform or shelf about 18 inches off the floor.

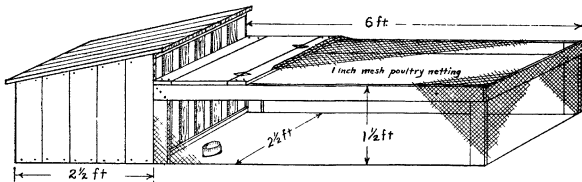


Figure 16—Brood Coop and Run

Figure 16 shows a brood coop and chicken run for confining a hen and chickens. The coop shown in Figure 15 may be used, or a number of coops may be built together. The roof of the coop may be hinged at the front so that it can be lifted up to put the hen in. The run in front may be covered with netting, old gunny sacks or slats. The sides of the run are often made of boards, and the top and front covered with netting.

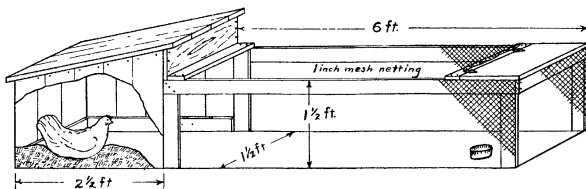
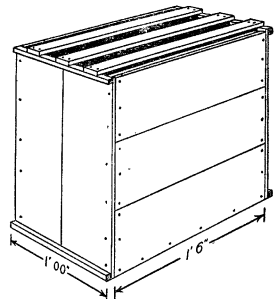


Figure 17—Hatching Coop

Figure 17 shows a hatching coop. The nest is made by banking up a little dirt higher than the ground around it. With an arrangement of this kind there is no trouble with the hen getting on the wrong nest. The top of this coop is hinged in front so as to make it convenient to set the hen.



Coop for shipping exhibition fowls
Figure 19

When shipping fowls by express to poultry shows it is very essential to have them crated in solid, substantial shipping coops in order to have them arrive in good condition.

This coop may be made from dry goods boxes, or almost any half-inch material.

The following dimensions should be used in constructing same:

For one hen or cock, 12 inches wide, 18 inches long, 24 inches high.

For two hens and cock, 18 inches wide, 24 inches long, 24 inches high.

For four hens and cock, 24 inches wide, 24 inches long, 24 inches high.

