

perches running parallel make the box three feet wide; the box is simply four pieces of board nailed together, and rests on the earth floor—I would cover the top with two in. mesh wire netting—the droppings pass through the wire netting and the fowls are thus prevented from scratching in the filth; another advantage of it is that if any soft-shell eggs are laid from the perch they drop out of reach of the hens, and thus it is a preventative of egg eating.

A light door wide enough to admit a wheelbarrow should be in each partition and should come within twelve inches of the ground; this twelve inch space below the door should be closed with a moveable board fitting into grooves, that it may be removed to admit the wheelbarrow, and when in position it prevents the fowls slipping through the doorway when the attendant enters. It will be found a great convenience if this door is made to swing both ways and close itself.

I would have no nest boxes on the floor, as I think it encourages hens to eat eggs. I would use any common box of a suitable size that may usually be had for nothing from your grocer; these should fasten to the sides of the house three feet from the floor, and I would have them removable so that they might be cleaned easily.

I think this description of the house is complete enough to be readily understood, and in conclusion I may say that if you can keep your fowls in a temperature not lower than 30° Fah. at night in winter you have as good a house as you could wish if you spent four times as much money on it. Next month we will consider the erection of fences for our two Plymouth Rock houses, and also the houses for our Leghorns.

*(To be Continued.)*

#### AMERICAN COCHIN CLUB, BUFF COLOR REPORT.

**Y**OUR Committee do not at the present time recommend the fixing of any one single shade as the Standard "rich deep clear buff" They recommend that in the showroom any shade not lighter than what is known technically as buff and not darker than ochraceous shall be accepted as Standard, and that no shade or tint within this range shall have any preference over another.

The surface color should be one bright even shade of rich clear buff throughout, perfectly sound, free from blemish and all foreign color. The main tail and flight feathers as free as possible from all foreign color, positive black or white to be considered objectionable in a like degree, although a trace of black in coverts of the flight feathers,

should not be regarded as a serious defect. The under color should be perfectly sound, but not necessarily the same shade as the surface color. Eyes, bay; beak, legs and toes, rich yellow; comb, earlobes and wattles, bright red.

Your Committee recommends that this Committee or another be continued in power until the next annual meeting, with full power to continue their efforts and to define the colors so that they will be better understood by those interested. The Committee has been in communication with more than fifty fanciers who are interested in the buff Cochin, both in this country and in England. Without mentioning names, they take this opportunity to extend their thanks for the courtesy and the valuable aid that has been given them in their work.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. SHARP, JR.,  
PHILANDER WILLIAMS,  
NEWTON ADAMS,  
Committee.

#### BLACK COLOR REPORT.

Your Committee would respectfully submit the following, viz.: That feeling as they do the great importance of bringing black Cochins up to the Standard of the buffs, which are acknowledged by all as the model Cochins of the day, that the first consideration for the breeder is shape, and congratulate the specialists in this breed that so marked an improvement has been made within a few years.

Regarding color, the Committee consider preferable both for exhibition and breeding a lustrous greenish black throughout showing great sheen in the sunlight, avoiding as much as possible both the purple and brown shades of black; the under color should be rich black throughout. Color of comb, wattles and earlobes, a clear, bright red.

The Committee would recommend that color disqualification should be entirely omitted from the Standard and that the breeders should use great care in the selection of their breeding pens for the next few years to enable them to produce birds so free from white or other foreign colors and of such high Standard and in such qualities that the idea of plucking or otherwise treating the plumage artificially would not suggest itself to even the most unscrupulous of us.

DAVID A. NICHOLS,  
ALBERT E. SWASEY,  
J. MERSELIS KIPP.  
Committee.