

of milk to one pound of mash by weight. Best results are secured when the food is mixed twelve hours previous to feeding. Give the birds grit once a week during the fattening period.

There are two methods of fattening poultry for the market. The method usually employed on the farm is the pen method, where the birds are confined in a pen or box stall. The other method is crate fattening, and is usually more profitable.

The stock which is to be fattened will consist of cockerels and probably a few pullets which are not suitable for laying or breeding purposes. Whether they are to be pen-fattened or crate-fattened, they should be starved for twenty-four hours. This cleans out the digestive system of the birds and puts them in good shape for the special feeding during the fattening period.

In pen-fattening all the stock is crowded into a small pen so that the birds will be kept quiet and cannot exercise much. If the room is slightly



Fig. 69.—A fattening crate.

dark all the better, as the birds will not be restless. They are kept there for about three weeks, being fed two or three times daily. If fed properly they will put on flesh quite rapidly.

Great care should be taken not to feed the birds too much during the first week of the fattening period. Feed very lightly. Give the birds just sufficient wet mash to make them clean it all up and be just a little hungry for more. For the second week feed a little more heavily, and for the third week feed all they can possibly eat.

Where only a few chickens are to be fattened, the pen-fattening method can be employed with good profit.

Where a large number of birds are to be fattened the most economical method is to feed them in crates or batteries. The birds will make larger gains and the quality of the meat should be superior to that of pen-fattened birds. Poultry buyers nearly all prefer crate-fattened birds.