

material. A light V-shaped trough  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches inside is placed in front of each crate, and is carried on two brackets nailed to the ends of the crate. The bottom of the trough should be 4 inches above the bottom of the crate and the upper inside edge 2 inches from the crate.

### FATTENING

In fattening for the market it is always advisable to use the fattening crate described in this bulletin. If only a small number of chickens are to be fattened, packing boxes of suitable dimensions can be adapted for the purpose. The open top of the box should become the bottom of the crate, and one side should be removed for the front. Laths should be nailed up and down the front and lengthwise on the bottom to form the floor. The laths should be placed the same distance apart as recommended in the construction of the regular fattening crate. A board should be loosened in the top of the box to remove the birds, and a feed trough arranged in front.

In *warm* weather the crate should be placed outdoors in a sheltered place.

In *unsettled* weather it is advisable to construct a rough board shelter above the crate so as to shed the rain; or the fattening should be carried on inside a shed or barn.

During *cold* weather the crates should be placed in a warm building. Abundant ventilation is required at all times.

*Killing Lice.*—Before the birds are put into crates they should be well dusted with sulphur, or any good louse-killer, to kill any lice on them. They should be treated again three days before they are killed.

*Feather Plucking.*—Birds that are fattening in crates sometimes pluck the feathers from one another. This habit is caused by irritation at the roots of the feathers, and results either from over-heated blood or parasites. The remedy is to remove the chickens that do the plucking and feed the others more skim milk, or add animal food and vegetable matter to the fattening ration.

If the trouble is caused by parasites, they will be found in the white powdery matter at the base of the quill. A sulphur and lard ointment should be applied to the affected parts.

*Feeding.*—It is necessary to feed the birds lightly the first few days they are in crates, not feeding all they will consume. The food should be given twice a day, and after the birds have eaten what they require the balance should be removed and the troughs turned over. Fresh water should be supplied daily, and grit two or three times a week.

*Fattening Rations.*—A satisfactory fattening ration is one that is palatable and that will produce a white-colored flesh. Oats, finely ground, or with the coarser hulls sifted out, have proved the best grain for fattening and should form the basis of all the grain mixtures. The most suitable meals for fattening are ground oats, buckwheat, barley, and low grade flour.