

So each pen of breeding fowls has a yard 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, which includes the floor space of their room in the house. Ten bales of wire netting will fence a piece of ground 200 feet square, which is nearly one acre. I like this arrangement of yards and houses better than any other that I have seen. The distance from any house to the next is only sixty feet, and the fowls have what is as good as unlimited range.

It will be found in practice that fowls will do much better horsed and yarded thus than in one of the long fowl houses that we so often see illustrated in the poultry journals. The writer has had experience with a house of this sort 265 feet long divided into pens 12 feet wide, with yards attached 125 by twelve feet. The fowls kept in this house never at any season laid as many eggs as those at liberty; they never seemed content, and were never in such vigorous health as the other fowls. The pens in this house were divided by boards three feet high and the passage way, which was three feet wide, was divided from the pens by boards four feet high and then wire netting to the roof, and the division between the pens had wire netting from the top of board partition to the roof.

There was always a strong draft of air in this building, and the greatest care was necessary to keep roup in check in the winter; the fowls seemed to have an aversion to taking exercise in their long narrow yards and occupied their time in loafing around the house, just outside of it as well as inside of it; they were constantly on the watch for their attendant—the moment he entered the building every fowl rushed inside, mounted the perches, and eagerly watched for his approach, the fowls in the far end of the house were on the qui vive almost as quickly as those at the end where the attendant entered, each pen of birds making a frantic rush for the perches the instant they heard the birds in the next pen doing so, they seemed afraid they might miss something if they strayed any distance from their pens.

We will now return to our description of the houses we propose to erect for one hundred Plymouth Rocks.

One of the great desideratums in a poultry house is warmth in winter, and to secure this I should be much inclined to fill the walls between the paper with dry sawdust if it could be obtained cheap enough. There have been many objections raised to the use of sawdust for this purpose; it has proven a refuge for rats and mice, and an absorbent of water, causing dampness, but if used with discretion I am convinced it will be found valuable. For the distance of one foot above the ground I would fill in the walls with mortar, when that was hardened and quite dry I would put

in the sawdust. There would be very little danger of dampness ever reaching the sawdust from surface water, and I don't think rats would gnaw a hole through the tarred paper to get at the sawdust, as they dislike tar in any form. Another thing, the nearest point at which they could reach the sawdust would be one foot above the ground, unless they gnawed a hole through the mortar filling, which is extremely unlikely. In speaking of the mortar filling as being one foot above the ground, I mean on the outside, on the inside it would only be six inches above the ground, as the floor would be raised at least six inches above the level outside, and would be composed entirely of earth, which I consider in every way superior to board floors—they are easier cleaned and never at any time become as filthy as board floors, as the top stratum can be removed with a spade and clean earth put in its place, but the board floor saturated with liquid filth from the droppings cannot be removed, and is constantly poisoning the atmosphere. An earth floor is warmer in winter and free from drafts and much better suited to the nature of fowls, as they delight to scratch in it in winter when everything out of doors is frozen up. I would have a window for each pen with double sash for winter use, and in summer would remove them entirely and use wire netting screens of a mesh small enough to keep out such vermin as weasels, mink, rats, etc

I believe fowls should be out of doors as early in the morning as their nature prompts them, therefore each pen would be fitted with a small sliding door, which would be closed at night to exclude nocturnal marauders, and would be opened automatically by the fowls in the morning by simply jumping off the perch, which would be hinged at one end and free at the other with a spring underneath it; relieved of the weight of the fowls the spring forces up that end of the perch, which releases a detort, causing a weight to drop which opens the door. No patent on this, gentlemen, so go ahead and use it; you will not then be forced to rise from your slumbers at 4 a.m. in the springtime. (The Lord help the last hen if she didn't jump quick enough.—ED.) The three partitions dividing the house into four rooms I would make of flooring seven-eighths of an inch thick; it is true it costs a little more than rough boards, but it is enough better to be worth the difference; such flooring can be bought for \$17 to \$18 per M, while rough boards will bring \$14. If I did not use sawdust for filling in the walls I should sheet up the entire inside of the house with this flooring, being very careful in lapping the joints of the tarred paper. I would have no roosting benches, but would have a bottomless box two feet wide and the length of the perch placed under each perch, or if placed under two