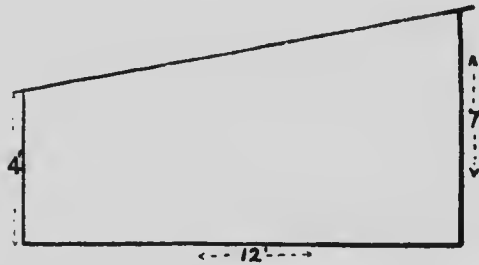


paper is a very useful material in the walls. The aim should be, however, rather than to make the place frost proof, to make it free from draughts, and what openings are used should be all at one side, the south.

*Floors.*—Floors in many places are made of earth. Where rats are present, it is better to use cement in permanent houses; in fact there is no floor as suitable as the cement floor; it is rat proof; it is dry; it can be constructed fairly economically, and it will last as long as the house. Objection has been raised to the use of cement floors owing to the cold nature of the cement, but where litter is used, and it always should be in this climate, poultry will not suffer on this account. Wooden floors, if used, should be placed sufficiently high from the ground so that vermin cannot find a harbour. If a rat can get underneath, make it high enough for the cat to follow. Cement floors are, of course, not suitable for movable houses. In some cases nothing but earth is used, but usually wooden floors give best results where houses are moved from place to place.

*Height of the House.*—Just how high the ceiling should be depends entirely upon the feeder. All that the poultry require is that the place is high enough to get thorough ventilation and to allow the entrance of the sunlight. A few feet might therefore be high enough to suit the poultry, but such a house would be so inconvenient that few people would care to enter it; so the height of the house must depend upon the man or woman who looks after it. If one part of the roof is made higher, have the highest portion where the feeder will have to walk when attending the fowl. The lower part will, in all probability, be high enough for the hens.

*Shape of Roof.*—There are, probably, as many different shaped roofs to hen houses as to dwellings, and every style has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. As to the cost of the different shapes, all styles cost about the same, providing the roof is the same slope, and the sum of the height of the front wall and the height of the back wall, added to the length of the roof, is equal.



THE SHED ROOF. THE COMMONEST TYPE.

*The Shed Roof.*—This type is probably the most popular; it is easy of construction and allows a high space for the windows. It also provides a lower ceiling at the back where the roosts can be placed. It has the additional advantages that rain drops at the back of the house and does not muddy up the front where the chickens may be. Some of the disadvantages of this house are that in a wide house the roof is not so strong, and snow piles up in snowy countries; it does not provide an attic for straw in a moist climate and it lacks somewhat in appearance.