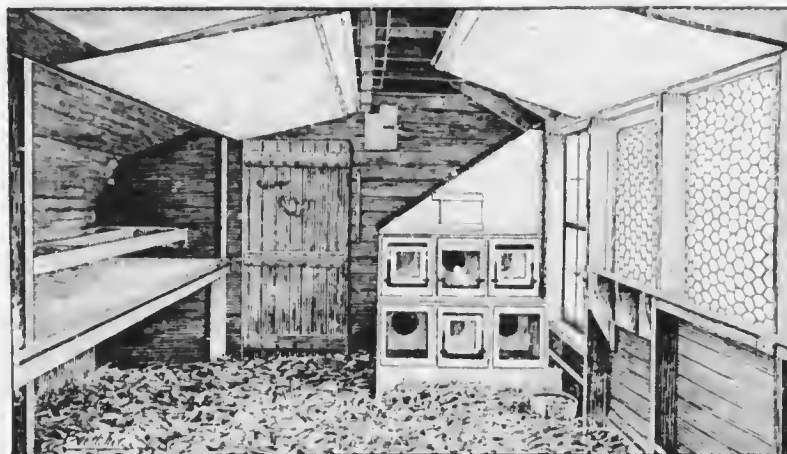


TRAP-NESTS.

The trap-nest system of poultry-breeding is one which gives the best black and white results. Owing to the great amount of time involved in this system, it lies with the poultryman himself whether he trap-nests his stock or not. If one does not care to trap-nest all his stock, some advantage will accrue from trap-nesting some of the April-hatched stock that matured nicely. In this way only a small amount of time will be required, yet in time the poultryman can advertise pedigree trap-nested stock which will be all he claims for it. One will also find, by using males from the trap-nested hens, that in a few generations a good strain of layers can be built up.

In all the experimental work done by experiment stations use is made of trap-nests.

The cuts and dimensions of the latest nest, which was devised by the Maine Experiment Station, show an excellent double-compartment nest.



This shows a good interior arrangement for a commercial poultry house.

The features of superiority of this nest over the old types used there, as also of the coop type of nest, are: Firstly, certainty of operation; secondly, more simplicity in construction and less tendency to get out of order; thirdly, saving of labour in resetting the nest.

The nest is a box-like structure without front end or cover, 28 inches long, 13 inches wide, and 16 inches deep, inside measure. A straight board partition extending up a few inches from the floor of the nest, 12 inches from the back and 15 inches from the front, divides the nest in two compartments.

The front portion of the nest has no fixed bottom. Instead there is the movable bottom or treadle, which is hinged at the back end of the front half, as shown in the cut. To this treadle is hinged the door of the nest. The cut gives very detailed dimensions.

When the nest is open the door extends horizontally in front. In this position the side strips of the door rest on a strip of beech $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, bevelled on the inner corner, which extends across the front of the nest. This beech strip is nailed to the top of a board 4 inches wide, which forms the front of the nest-box proper. To the bottom of this is nailed a strip 2 inches wide, into which are set two 4-inch spikes from which the heads have been cut. The treadle rests on these spikes when the nest is closed. The hinges used in fastening the treadle and door are narrow 3-inch galvanized butts with brass pins, made to work very easily. It is necessary to use hinges which will not rust.