

happened to be studying therein, but the plants seldom thrive well under such conditions, and the effect on the insects feeding thereon is unsatisfactory and in many cases fatal. Especially is this true where it becomes necessary to transplant from out of doors, as it frequently occurs that we wish to transfer a plant with the larvæ feeding upon it to a position that will enable the movements of the latter to be carefully studied. Under the new arrangement we can either grow the food plant in the benches or transplant it from the garden or field, place our insects upon it, and cover it with a breeding cage, thus eliminating to a considerable extent the objectional features of the old method. Or if we find an insect attacking a plant out of doors we can place one of the cages of the pattern that we are now using over the plant, and pushing the metal base into the soil deftly inclose the whole within our cage without in the least disturbing the insects that we wish to study under the most natural conditions possible.

The breeding cage now in use is shown in Figure 25 and also in Plate 4. It consists of a wooden frame of four upright pieces supporting a wooden top and with an upper base also of wood. Three sides are covered with swiss drawn tightly and fastened along the edges by means of galvanized iron strips about one-fourth of an inch in width, and these are in turn fastened to the wood by tinned staples, such as are used in laying carpets and matting. The remaining side is of glass, which is raised and lowered as required, and works in vertical grooves. By using galvanized iron strips and tinned staples the rusting out of the swiss or other cloth covering is avoided. The lower base is also of galvanized iron, and is shown in Figure 26, as is also the wooden bottom which fits inside of this, and can be used when needed, and when not may be readily removed and laid aside, as it is fastened in place by screws.

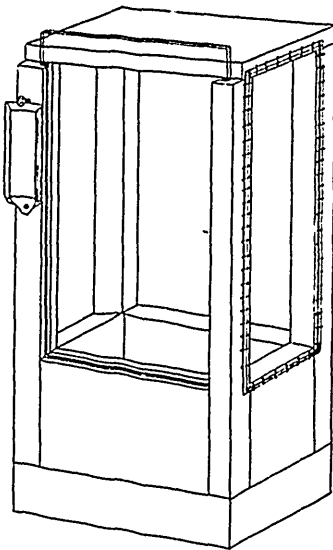


FIG. 25.

When used without the bottom it is only necessary to place the cage over the plant or plants and press it down until the metal portion is sunk