FOUNDATIONS.

There are many ideas relating to the correct foundation for a long continuous house, but there is no set rule to go by. An air-space is desirable under the floor to prevent rotting of the floor-timbers and the floor itself. If a house be built so that the floor-timbers are placed upon boulders at the ends and at short spaces between, or on 4-foot posts set 6 feet apart, with 8 or 10 inches above the ground, there would be a good circulation under the house in warm weather. In winter one can bank up around the house to keep the cold air from blowing under by ploughing a single furrow, throwing the dirt against the house. Although a little extra labour is involved in this method, the dirt banked against the house can be taken from the immediate back. In this way a ditch is formed which will carry the water away as it runs off the roof.

A foundation of cement is strong and more durable than any other if constructed properly. When building a cement foundation it is advisable to dig a trench from 15 to 20 inches in depth directly under where the walls of the house are to be.

It is necessary to keep the house on a level plane. We would suggest the hire of a team, man, and scoop shovel for a day in such an instance to take the dirt from the slope and level the same to a certain extent.

The ditch should then be filled with coarse gravel to about 5 inches from the ground-level. Then construct the cement wall 6 or 8 inches thick to a level of 4 or 6 inches above the highest point of the ground-level on a level plane.

The material should be well mixed in proportions of 1 part cement, 3 parts sand, and 5 parts coarse gravel, to withstand the weight of the building. Tiles may be placed in the concrete on the south side between the ground-level and the floor to allow air-circulation and thus prevent the floor-timbers from rotting.