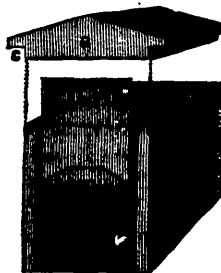


ber of the bones, and to a series of air receptacles which are scattered through various parts of the body, the quantity of oxygen therefore consumed by poultry is greatly in excess of any other class of the vertebrata, and on the sufficient and continuous supply of which their health and profit depends.

It will be conceded then that the free admission of the caloric rays of the sun into poultry-houses is as essential to the health and recuperative powers of fowls, as the food they eat is to the sustenance of their bodies—they constitute the incessant and periodically renewed source of power and life not alone in fowls, but in all other animal life, and to their influence we must attribute the many blessings we now enjoy. The study and application of nature's fundamental laws are as essential to the rearing and keeping of poultry, as mating and crossing is to the production of pure breeds. When they are properly understood and acted upon, and their beneficial effects utilized, the now too frequent complaints of the unproductiveness of poultry will become less general—and the sooner we apply ourselves more thoroughly to the task the better. The first and not the least important part of which is the proper construction of our poultry-houses.

### HATCHING BOX.

As the breeding season for poultry is coming on I send you a sketch of a plan

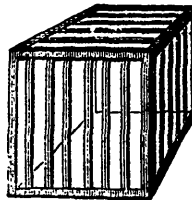


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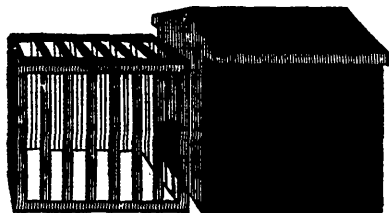
Get a large tea chest A. cut a hole round or square in the front of it, and nail two pieces of wood with a groove, or easier still, nail two pieces the one over the other, but the edge of one projecting  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch over the other, and nail them on, on each side of the hole, they will form a groove for the door to slide in.

To form the roof cut two pieces of inch board in the form B. just to fit inside the chest going in about 1 inch at C. and forming a projection or eave—nail some thin boards across these pieces the edge overlapping, or you may board it straight if you afterwards nail a piece of felt to keep out the wet. This roof lifts off under, so that a hen and eggs can be examined at any time, and the space between the boards and edge of the chest when the roof is on admits air. Then get some laths and construct a cage D to place in front of the door and



Cage D.

the apparatus is complete. Any old box, any old pieces of chests, a few laths, (sawn ones the best) a few nails, hammer and saw, and the coop may be constructed by a non-professional. The hen is put on the eggs and is generally shut in at night by letting down the



Hatching Box Complete.

sliding door. Place food and water in the outer cage in the morning and you may go to your daily avocations knowing that she will take care of herself, cannot get out, and will return to hatching.