

of which we know. The horse is no exception to this rule. I have been keeping both stallions and mares upon cement floors for many years, and with a noticeable improvement of their feet. When I sold Nicolas 21997 (43394), August 16th, 1910, the quality of his feet was the cause of much comment. He was in his fifteenth year, and yet his feet were much better than when he came from the old country nearly 12 years prior to this time. He had been kept upon cement floors for many years. Horses standing upon cement or any other kind of floors should be well bedded at all times.

337. Earth Floors. The second best floor for horses is one rightly made of earth. If a good tight wall is placed under a



Figure 93. Horse barn.

barn and the inside filled with 15 to 18 inches of the right kind of material, one has a very good floor. Before filling, tile should be laid thickly throughout the building, sloping downward from the center to the outside if the barn is built upon level ground, and from the higher to the low r side if built upon sloping ground or a side hill. Upon these one can begin to fill with clay or other soil that can be firmed down, or even with broken stone, brick or very coarse gravel. For the surface nothing will be found better than clay and coal cinders, equal parts of each. Such a floor well pounded down before using is far better than any plank floor. The plank floor is to be condemned because of absorbing filth and microbes, besides making an ideal breeding place for rats and mice. In addition to these objections, is that of the space below the floor being filled with poisonous gases.