

PERCHES.

Perches should be not more than 2 1-2 feet from the floor, and should all be of the same height. Many fowls prefer to perch as far as possible above the ground, in order, without doubt, to be more secure from their natural enemies; but when fowls are protected artificially from skunks, minks, foxes, etc., a low perch is just as safe and a great deal better for the heavy-bodied fowls. It must be borne in mind that the distance given at which perches should be placed from the floor applies to all breeds of fowls. It is true that some of the Mediterranean fowls would not in any way be injured in flying to and from the perches, but some of the heavy breeds would find it almost impossible to reach high perches and would sustain positive injuries in alighting on the floor from any considerable elevation. Convenient walks or ladders can be constructed which will enable the large fowls to approach the perches without great effort, but there are always times when even the most clumsy fowls will attempt to fly from the perch to the floor and come down with a heavy thud, which is often injurious. And furthermore, ladders or stairs for the easy ascent of fowls are more or less of a nuisance in the poultry house. The ideal interior arrangement of the house is to have everything that is needed in as simple a form as possible and not to complicate the arrangement by any unnecessary apparatus. The fewer and simpler the interior arrangements the easier the house can be kept clean, and the greater the floor space available for the fowls.

There is no reason why all perches should not be placed near the floor. Movable perches are to be preferred. A 2 by 3 scantling set edgewise, with the upper corners rounded, answers every purpose and makes a satisfactory perch. The perches should be firm and not tip or rock. The form of the scantling makes it easy to secure them firmly and still have them removable.

Underneath, the perches should always be

placed a smooth platform to catch the droppings. This is necessary for two reasons: the droppings are valuable for fertilizing purposes and ought not to be mixed with the litter on the floor; then, too, if the droppings are kept separate and in a convenient place to remove, it is much easier to keep the house clean than when they are allowed to become more or less scattered by the tramping and scratching of fowls. The distance of the platform from the perch will be governed somewhat by the means employed for removing the droppings. If a broad iron shovel with a tolerably straight handle is used, the space between the platform and perches need not be more than 6 inches. The droppings should be removed every day.

THE EARLY BROODS.

The early broods of chicks should be kept warm; that is more essential than food. In addition to grain, such as rolled oats, cracked corn, screenings, etc., little chicks should have meat. The cheap portions of beef, liver, blood or any refuse parts may be used. An excellent mess is to boil a pound of chopped lean beef or liver until cooked to pieces. Then thicken the broth, while boiling, with a mixture of equal parts of buckwheat, cornmeal and middlings, adding salt to season. Let it cook until it is the consistency of stiff dough, and feed it warm once a day, giving the chicks as much as they will eat at one time.

Swine

BEST RATIONS FOR SWINE.

W. A. Henry, *director Wis. Exper. Sta.*

The successful hog feeder must keep in his mind a good many scientific as well as practical facts if he is to make the most out of his business. In regard to feeding stuffs, he should clearly distinguish at all times what nutrients the various articles