

NEVER mind the fresh air—keep your birds warm. You cannot suffocate them if you try. Plenty of cold air will come in.

Eggs will freeze and burst open if left in the nest on very cold days. Collect the eggs several times during the day, and make the nests in a warm place, using plenty of hay or litter, which will be warmed by the hens when they are on the nests, and thereby prevent the eggs from becoming chilled too suddenly when the hens come off after laying.

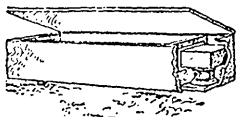
The practice of mixing sand or other gritty material with the food is wrong, as it compels the fowls or chicks to swallow substances which should not be used except by selection on the part of the bird. Gritty material should be sharp, and is used by the fowls only as required by them. As soon as it becomes fine it is useless and passes out of the gizzard.

When sand is mixed with the food it simply serves as a foreign substance which interferes with digestion. Coarse, sharp and hard grit is the kind preferred by the fowls.

#### Warming Water for Stock.

A plan for warming the water for stock during cold weather is shown in the engraving herewith. One end of the trough is partitioned off, and over a square opening in the partition is tightly fitted a galvanized iron box, the water flowing freely out into this iron box.

Under this iron box a small oil stove is placed, admission being had by means of a small door in the front of the trough.



With a tight cover, the water in the trough can have the chill removed very easily. It is especially important to have the iron box as low down in the trough as possible, so that the water at the bottom of the trough may be warmed, as well as that at the top. If possible, then, let the end compartment extend below the main body of the trough, so that the iron box may open into the lower part of the trough. As the water is heated, it will rise, and the colder water from the bottom be drawn in, to be heated in its turn.

#### A Convenient Farm Bench.

THE illustrations herewith show a bench easily made in the home workshop and very convenient in many operations

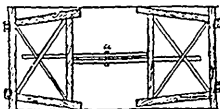


Fig. 1.

about the farm—when planting the garden, grafting in the orchard, assorting fruit, dressing fowls, and a hundred and one other times when it is desired to have tools or packages raised above ground.

When not in use, it can be folded into small space and put away, as shown in Fig. 1. The construction is so plainly shown in the cut that little explanation is needed. The braces running from the middle to the bottom of the legs are hinged to the legs and go into slot (a) underneath the bench near the center. The bench ready for use is seen in Fig. 2.

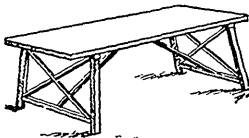


Fig. 2.

#### A Handy Lift.

It is often desirable in the stable, barn or other buildings, to raise some article from the floor for weighing, or other purpose. This is usually done by sheer strength in lifting. The simple device figured herewith will save much strength exerted in this way. On the top of a beam or crosspiece of the framing, mount



a wooden roller, as suggested in the sketch. Whenever a weight is to be lifted it is only necessary to throw a rope over the roller and raise it as one would with a pulley. The roller should, of course, be as large in diameter as the beam is thick, so the rope will not draw across the corner of the beam.