

ground, are apt to induce egg-eating. Dark nests prevent this. (Figs. 12 and 13.)

Nests are usually made from 12 to 15 inches square.

Cement floors are the cleanest and the results are very good. Their cost is a serious objection. Ground floors are more in favor than board floors, and cost much less.

In my own experience, the best results are obtained from keeping 20 to 25 birds in a flock. Some succeed with 60 to 75 in a flock; but these are the minority. We have received fair returns from a flock of 100 hens.

COLONY HOUSES.

Many people living in towns and cities wish for plans of houses suitable for housing a dozen fowls each. In some instances they wish these houses so constructed that they can be moved from place to place.

There is also a demand among farmers for a small house for rearing chickens, or for small special breeding pens. The plans given below are all adaptable to these conditions, and have been used here for the purposes mentioned above. The houses are of sufficient size to accommodate 100 chicks to a two-pound weight, or fifty chickens to a four or five-pound weight; but for winter use I would not advise putting in more than a dozen laying hens. See Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11.

EGG PRODUCTION.

In considering this subject there are several factors worthy of notice—the housing and the range, the breed and the strain, the kind of feed and the method of feeding, the attendant, the cleanliness of the buildings, their surroundings and the weather.

In the foregoing pages we have discussed houses, and no further mention is needed here.

The question of which is the best breed is rather a delicate one, and moreover, my experience is that there is as much in strain as there is in breed. However, it can be safely stated that the heavier breeds such as Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds, Orpingtons, etc., usually lay better during the winter—if hatched early—than do Leghorns, Hamburgs, etc., or the lighter breeds. The lighter or smaller breeds, with us, are more easily affected by sudden climatic changes during the winter. Usually their egg production declines considerably during a cold snap. Where one has no particular desire to get eggs in winter and does not care for roasting chickens, they would find the lighter breeds most profitable. Where one wants a general purpose chicken, that is a fair layer during both winter and summer, and at the same time a chicken that will make a fair broiler or roaster, such breeds