



Fig. 3

These figures must not be taken to mean that hens will lay better in a cold house than in a warm one, but that fresh air is essential to health, and health is a factor in egg production. When one tries to retain the animal heat of the body to maintain the heat of the house, one necessarily allows but little air circulation, hence the air becomes foul or stagnant, which is not healthful.

The above results indicate that the free admission of fresh air is a very essential factor in house construction.

House No. 3 in Fig. 1, which gave the poorest results for each of the five consecutive winters, was operated quite successfully the sixth and seventh winters by introducing more fresh air; that is to say, one-half of the windows were removed until about December 1st, and when these were put in, the openings (about one foot square), where the fowls go out into the yard at the north side were left entirely open. These except during mild days appear to supply sufficient air to keep the birds doing nicely. This statement is made as a means of helping any person who may have a similar house, and who wishes to continue using the same.

Our experience is that all four houses, while fairly satisfactory, especially No. 4, are not all that may be desired, for the reason that they must be adjusted according to weather conditions—that is to say, on bright, sunshiny days, the doors, movable windows, or cloth screens should be opened for nearly all the day, or, again, for but an hour, depending upon the sunshine and temperature.

The slope or shanty roofs on houses Nos. 1 and 2 have not been as satisfactory as the pitched roofs on houses Nos. 3 and 4. The roofs on the latter houses are more durable and the houses themselves much cooler in summer, and furthermore, the straw lofts in these houses are very effectual in preventing dampness in the houses; no frost collects upon the walls or ceilings.

We have tried several houses with curtain fronts, and we are pleased to say they work fairly well, when used in a house as in Figures 5 and 6, which is practically the same style of house as No. 4 in Figure 1, but these require adjusting according to the weather, and if they are not kept brushed, the dust and dirt will gather to such an extent as to pre-