

the end or edge of a corn patch, which is the ideal place to raise chicks. As soon as the chicks are old enough to roost, the hover should be taken out and roosts put in, and then the chickens can stay there till early fall, when they are ready to go into the regular poultry house. If a sufficient number of broody hens can be secured at one time, it is a good plan to hatch with the hens and then raise them with the brooders.

The method of feeding chicks is very simple. The first feed may consist of bread, soaked in milk and pressed dry, and hard-boiled eggs mixed with it, and also finely cut onion leaves. Give them chick feed scattered in litter, or on the ground, five times a day. If milk is available give them milk to drink in a drinking fountain, similar to the one shown in Fig. 9.

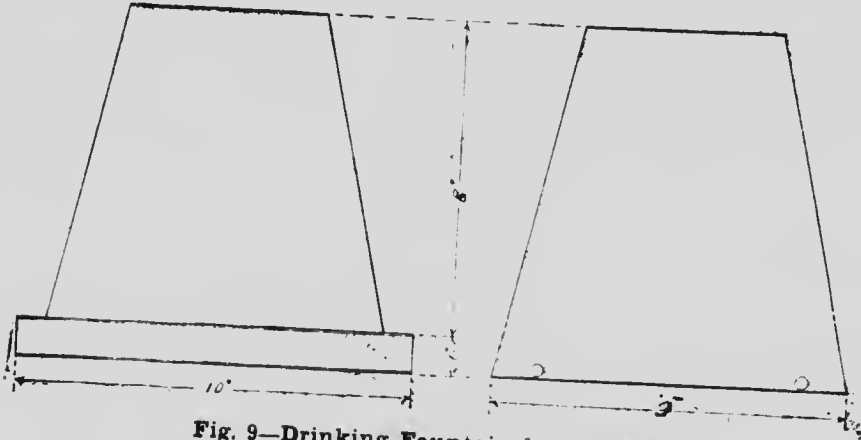


Fig. 9—Drinking Fountain for Chickens.

Wheat screenings and finely cracked corn may take the place of chick feed. Gradually change to wheat or wheat screenings and cracked corn, so that at the end of six weeks they will get very little cracked feed. Feed three times a day after the first three weeks. Provide grit of some kind.

At the end of two weeks they should be started on a dry mash made up of one part corn meal, one part low grade flour, one part bran, five per cent. beef scrap, one per cent. bone meal and a small quantity of powdered charecoal. Feed this dry in a pan or trough twice a day. This dry mash may be fed from the day the chicks are put in the hover. Stale bread soaked in any kind of milk and pressed dry is always a good feed along with these others. After six weeks of age the chicks should have the grain and dry mash put in a two compartment feeding hopper (see Fig. 10). Keep this some place outside, so they can eat all they want. By following this plan of feeding, and raising them on free range, the chickens of the utility breeds should weigh four or five pounds at five months of age. Then the pullets are ready to go into the regular poultry house, and the cockerels are ready to fatten for the market.