MARKETING POULTRY.—The foregoing directions for killing and packing poultry apply generally, but there are epicures who want something special, and oftentimes it is a paying proposition to cater to their whims. Some call for the birds alive, while others call for them not only killed and plucked but drawn.

Shipping Crate.—Where poultry is marketed alive Fig. 62 shows the construction of a very desirable shipping crate. It is 4 feet long, 2 feet wide and 14 inches high, and made of half-inch lumber or lath in the bottom, with the sides, ends and top closed with lath three inches apart. The centre lath on top is made to slide so as to put in the birds. The illustration shows that the crate has been made of woven picket fencing. The wires are not necessary if otherwise strongly constructed. The crate is divided into two compartments in order to prevent crowding. Each compartment is intended to hold from 12 to 15 birds.

X.—WINTER EGG PRODUCTION.

Successful poultry farming is divided into two distinct industries in two different seasons,—the summer for the production of meat or market poultry and the winter for the production of eggs. The question of producing for the market has been dealt with in the foregoing chapters. The high price paid for eggs during the winter should be an incentive to produce the largest number possible during that season of the year. To secure this the winter conditions should conform as nearly as possible to those of the summer. Under these circumstances egg production becomes an easy attainment. When the pullet becomes fully developed she will lay if she is of the right strain and fed the proper ration for egg production, as eggs are the product of the surplus food eaten.

SELECTING THE LAYING STOCK.—The greatest care should be exercised in selecting the birds intended for laying stock because the pullets that are to be the winter layers will also be the breeding stock in the hatching season.

In addition to the care that has been exercised in selecting and mating the breeding stock winter egg production is influenced very

Fig. 63.—GRIT BOX.