

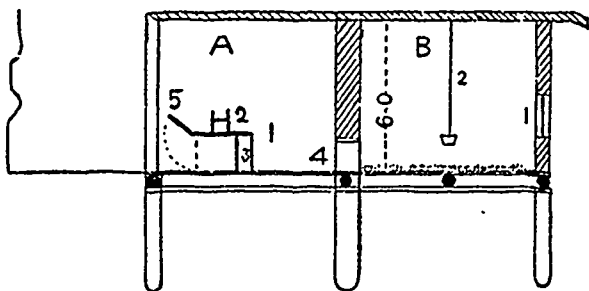
the grain fed should be scattered so as to make the fowls actively search for it. A board flooring is preferable, as it is more likely to be dry. A narrow trough 2 or 2½ inches wide should be attached to the wall so as to permit of the proper feeding of soft food, if given. The object of this scratching house is to keep the layers busy all day and as much as possible out of house A, where they are only wanted to go to roost in and to lay. A fair sized window or windows should be in the south wall so as to admit as much sunlight as possible.

The houses can be made as large or as small as the number of hens require, always allowing six square feet for each hen, at the least, in the scratching room, and 10 to 12 inches roosting room for hens of medium and large size.

The alteration in the original diagram consists in making access to the nests and platform possible from the barn by the hinged door 5. The object of the alteration is to permit of the eggs being gathered and the platform cleaned from the barn. Diagram No. 2 shows an arrangement that may be more suitable to the colder parts of the Dominion. Another modification is that in the instructions as to what should be placed on the floor of B compartment. Straw chaff, or other kindred substances have been found superior to sand for reasons given in report of last year, and which briefly summed up are that the straw was a better incentive to exercise, was healthier, not so cold to the feet of the layers, and was much more easily removed. A correspondent stated that he had found ashes mixed with the sand a good deodoriser. But such was not found to be the case in the pens of the poultry houses where sand had been placed, and from time to time a small quantity of coal ashes. Where straw or chaff is used on the floor, a dust bath will be absolutely necessary, for it is the means whereby the hens keep themselves free from lice.

DIAGRAM NO. 2.

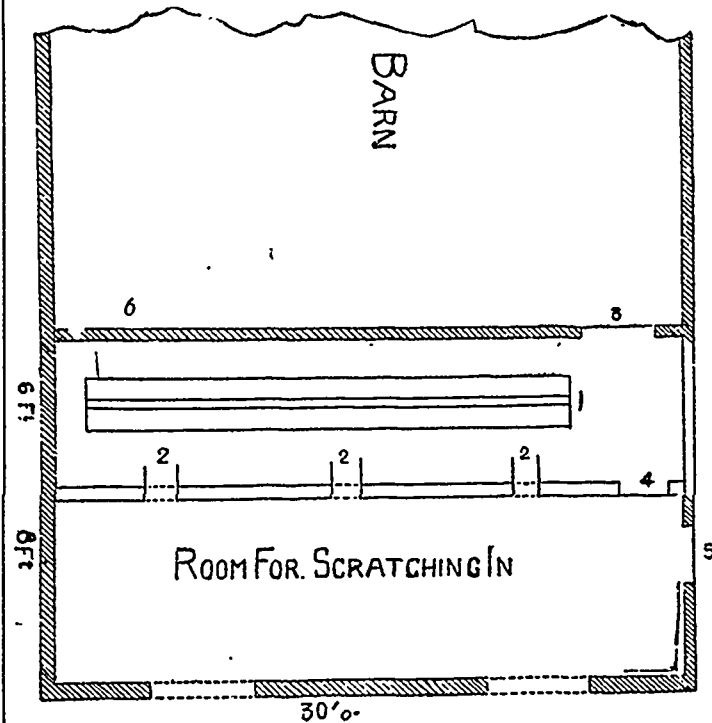
Showing an arrangement of an hinged door to platform and nests, better suited to cold districts.



The above diagram, No. 2, shows the two sections, A and

B of No. 1 diagram. It might be found impracticable in the portions of the Dominion where the winters are cold to have an entrance from the barn direct to platform and nests. In such cases entrance can be had to A compartment from the door 3 as shown in the following diagram No. 3. In the above diagram 2 the nests are reached by the hinged board 5 for the purpose of gathering the eggs, renewing the straw in the nests or spraying them with coal oil to prevent lodgment of vermin, etc.

DIAGRAM NO. 3.



1. Platform and roosts with nests underneath. 2. Slides to scratching room. 3, 4 and 5. Doors. 6. Dividing wall between barn and hennerly.

The above plan, No. 3, shows the end of the barn with the roosting and laying room and scratching room attached.

The numbers are explained as follows :—

1. Is the platform and roost with the nest boxes underneath. If the nests and platform are reached as in diagram 1, the platform will have to be put back so as to rest against the rear position wall (6).
2. Are the slides to allow access to the scratching-room. In a smaller house one or two would answer.
- 3 and 4. Are doors to get into apartments.
5. Is a side door to get in and out of the room for scratching, to clean up, &c. If it can be managed without, there need be no necessity for this door, as the fewer openings