

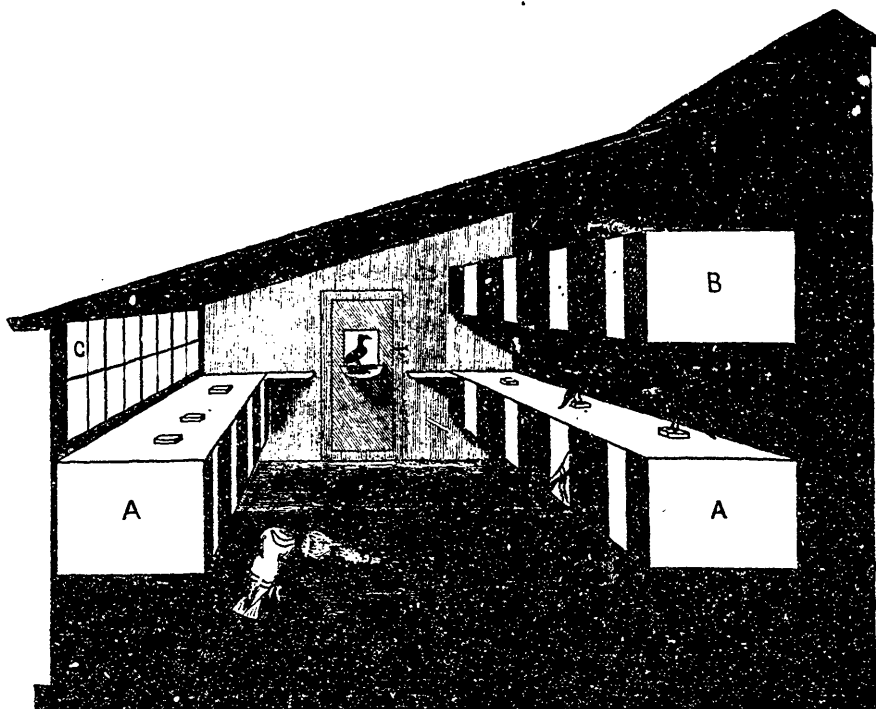
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Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to the foot.

FIG. 5.—GENERAL LOFT.

A. A. Breeding pens. B. Mating, etc., Pens. C. Windows.

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The Pigeon Loft.

BY OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT.

(Continued)

Our loft being now ready we will proceed to the general management of its inmates. The first thing required is a mortar-box, which should contain a plentiful supply of grit (*i. e.*, clean sand and mortar), to assist digestion. This is a *sine qua non*

if the birds are to be kept in full vigor. It must be placed where the birds can all have ready access to it, and where the contents will be kept dry and unsoiled by the birds. The water fountains should be constructed in such a manner that they can be readily taken apart for cleaning. The old fashioned ones in one piece, with only a small hole at one side, are an abomination, and the cause of much disease. The best are made of glazed earthenware (in shape similar to Fig. 8), which, though not so durable, are preferable to metal ones. Where these are not procurable an ordinary jam-pot is the best substitute. The fountains should be kept inside the loft, as the water is then kept at a more even temperature. A large shallow pan should be pro-