



FIG. 4.—SHOWING ONE METHOD OF SUPPLYING SHADE FOR CHICKS.

To decrease the amount of labour involved in caring for the growing stock, they may be fed by the hopper system. Both whole grain and mashes may be used for feeding in this way. However, it must be acknowledged that the advantages of the hopper system of feeding the growing stock is questionable. There is no doubt that chickens will do better when fed whole grain from the hand, though it involves more labour. The important factor is that the pullets should be so housed and fed during the growing season that they will be matured sufficiently to be laying eggs in the fall and early winter. When the chickens are three months old the cockerels should be separated from the pullets, and any weak chickens should be kept by themselves or killed.

After they are strong enough to leave the brooder, the best house to put them in is a colony house, such as is shown in Fig. 5. Pull this house into an orchard or field where the chicks may have ample room and pick up much of their living. Not only will they pick up a large portion of their food, but will tend to rid an orchard of many of the injurious insects.