

the house dry, a condition imperative for the best results. Dampness in a fowlhouse is the cause of many diseases.

The floor itself should be of earth. A wooden floor is under all circumstances objectionable. It not only is a good harbouring-place for vermin, but it is not so comfortable for the birds, and is certainly less sanitary than the earthen floor. It also encourages rats and mice. When there is not an abundance of sand to spread on the floor, earth should be well rammed, and covered with asphalt or tar and sand.



FIG. 1. SHOWING METHOD OF SUSPENDING THE PERCHES.

*Perches.*—The perches should be placed fairly low, so that the birds will not bruise their feet when flying. Eighteen inches from the floor is ample. Do not nail the perches, or they will be a harbour for vermin. They should be fixed by wires (see Fig. 1), or be fitted into a slot, so that they may be easily removed and the ends dipped into some strong disinfectant occasionally. A perch should be 2 in. wide by 3 in. deep, and made of sawn timber with the edges planed off. If there are any cracks these will harbour vermin.

*Dropping-boards* have their advantages, but their use is only advisable where they can be maintained in a thoroughly sanitary state, and are easily removable, so that thorough cleansing is an easy matter. The great drawback to their use is the medium they provide for the development of vermin,