

least every 20 ft. in order to prevent a current of air passing along the building. The exit to the outside run should be through the end walls near the front corners, and not in the back, as this will create a draught through the house.

To avoid dampness the floor should be well raised above the surrounding ground. A concrete or asphalt floor is recommended in permanent poultry-houses, as it greatly facilitates thorough cleaning out. Those whose circumstances necessitate a cheaper arrangement are advised to fill in the floor well with soil, which will require renewal once a year. A concrete floor can be made damp-proof, and will also be warmer, by giving it a coat of hot tar. In laying down a floor of concrete or asphalt it should always be made with a slight fall to the front, so that if any rain drives in from the front it will not run back and wet the whole interior. Whatever material is used, the floor should be kept well covered with litter, in which the grain food should be fed. The birds should be encouraged to look for their food indoors, and not allowed to stand about in the yards on wet days waiting for their meals.

The prevention of the red-mite pest should not entirely depend on the measures taken later on. It is possible and certainly very advisable to ensure against this enemy when erecting the house. To this end the use of tar is strongly recommended. Supposing timber is the material to be used in constructing the house, it may be tarred on every side, stacked, and the tar allowed to dry before it is cut up. If when the construction is finished the interior is given a spraying with limewash on the tarred timber, an effective "insurance policy" will have been taken out against red mite. The writer has found that houses thus treated with tar and lime can be kept absolutely free from vermin without any spraying with disinfectants, provided that the droppings are removed regularly—at least once a week. A considerable saving of labour and expense may thus be effected. The tarring is done once for all, and the spraying with limewash need be repeated only once a year.

Those who are not prepared to pay regular attention to cleaning are advised not to have dropping-boards. Their best method is to have the perches entirely disconnected with the walls of the house. This can be easily done by getting some pieces of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. gas-pipe about 3 ft. long, and driving them 1 ft. deep into the floor of the house. A 4 in. nail is driven part way into the under-side of the perch, and when dropped into the pipe holds the perch in position. The ends of the perches being kept some distance away from the walls, there is not much possibility of the dreaded red mite getting a hold in the house. A 12 in. by 1 in.