

board on edge just in front of the outside perch will prevent the litter from getting mixed with the droppings.

A GOOD STANDARD HOUSE.

The accompanying drawings give all necessary measurements and general indications of a style of house recommended for 100 adult birds.

Asbestos slate is found to be the most suitable material for the dropping-board, but being very brittle it requires to be well supported. Three perches of 3 in. by 2 in. scantling (with the 2 in. side up and the corners planed off) are placed 1 ft. above the dropping-board and about 11 in. apart. The perches are hung on brackets made with stout wire, as shown in the photograph. The wire is bent into the shape of a staple, with both points turned round like hooks. This bracket hangs on two staples, and the perch drops into it; it is a simple and effective arrangement for the purpose. Avoid having the perches fixed so that they cannot be removed, or so that they swing to and fro to the discomfort of the birds.

The nests project from the front of the house, and the eggs are gathered from the outside by opening flaps. Kerosene-tins placed on their sides, with three-fourths of each end cut out, are used for the actual laying-boxes. They are raised 1 ft. above the floor to lessen stooping when gathering the eggs. A platform 6 in. wide is placed along the front to enable the hens to enter easily, and a sloping board is fixed just above to make the nest dark and secluded.

The hood over the front of the house prevents the rain from driving in during stormy weather. In exposed localities it will require to extend lower than is shown in the sketch. A common mistake is to have the open part of the front too high, which causes a current of air to strike the birds when at roost. The front should be closed up from the bottom and down from the top, leaving the central part of the wall open. This open portion is covered with 1-in.-mesh wire netting to keep the sparrows out. By locating the house with the front facing the north-east the rays of the early morning sun (being then almost horizontal) will penetrate right to the back of the building where the purifying properties of sunshine are most required.

The material to be used in construction must be determined by what is available in the particular locality at the most reasonable price. Boarded walls are shown in the sketch, but corrugated iron has become the most popular material for both walls and roofs, even in climates having great extremes of