



Fig 10.—A distributor mounted on a horse-drawn wagon.

or soaks away. In some installations two drains have been constructed from the yard, one for the manure to the sump, and the other for stormwater leading away from the yard. Movable trap-doors are used at the entrances of these drains so that either drain can be closed or left open as desired.

Where the sump is considerably below the level of the stockyard the manure can be conveyed to it by means of 6-inch pipes. In these instances, another pipe drain of 4-inch pipes can be used to divert the unwanted water,

and by the use of suitable plugs either drain can be used as desired.

### Distributors

The most common type of distributor is the square iron tank, either 200 or 400 gallons capacity, mounted on a konaki. The platform is constructed about 3 feet longer than the tank so that there is ample room in front to allow comfortable standing room for the driver. This is especially necessary when driving through gateways or over bridges. The konaki is fitted with the usual iron skid in front, while the wheels can vary in size from 18 inches to 24 inches in diameter, but must be fitted with a 6-inch tread to lessen damage to gateways and pastures. A 2-inch axle is sufficient to support the load. The tank, which is fixed on the back of the konaki, is fitted with a splash-proof lid and a 2½-inch or 3-inch tap that can be opened or closed quickly. If procurable, a cheese vat tap is ideal, but failing this, any straight-through tap is suitable.

CROSS SECTION SKETCH OF GRAVITY INSTALLATION.  
(See text article)

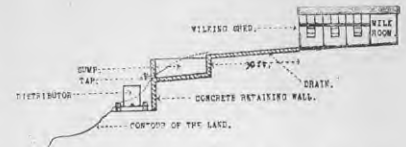


Fig 11.—Cross-section sketch of a gravity installation.

It will be found that square iron tanks are in short supply, and if they are unprocurable, a distributor can be built with timber. This procedure is necessary in some cases where the fall is too small to allow the use of a tank. These wooden distributors are made from 1½-inch timber, and a popular size is 6 feet long by 3 feet wide by 2 feet deep, having a capacity of approximately one ton of manure. In addition to the tap and splash-proof lid, it is advisable to fit two tie-bolts of ½-inch iron across each end of the box, so that if shrinkage occurs the bolts can be tightened and the joints again made waterproof. For this purpose the sides of the box should project about 3 inches beyond the ends, and all other parts of the box, including the top and the bottom, should be built between the sides.

If the country is undulating and much surging of the material is likely in the box, baffle plates should be fitted to the inside to reduce wear and tear on the distributor from this cause. These plates are made from 1-inch or 1½-inch timber, and are placed 2 feet from each end of the box, and right across it, but 1 inch below the top to leave an air vent, and about 8 inches from the floor to allow sufficient room for periodical removal of the sand that settles in the distributor.

A distributor can be mounted on a sledge, a konaki, a wagon, or a motor-lorry, so that in most cases the type of conveyance already in use on the farm is suitable. The sledge and the horse-drawn wagon both have a common fault in that the tyres or runners are too narrow for use in wet weather, both tending to cause damage to gateways and pastures.

All photographs are by the author.



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