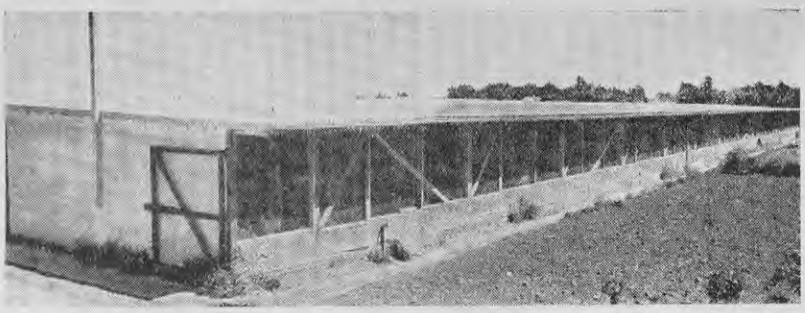

Fig 7.—Lean-to laying-house with front of house lower than the back.

for 6 in. beyond the back wall, and a 6 ft. x 1 in. or an 8 ft. x 1 in. baffle-board is attached to the ends of these rafters, then air can still pass freely into the house, but no draught is possible, however strong the wind may

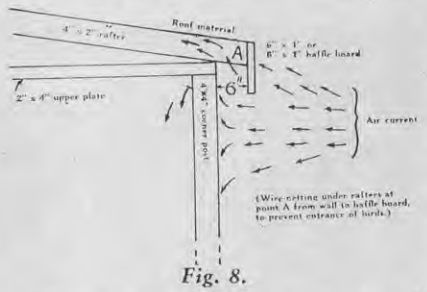

Fig. 8.

be on the back of the house. Fig. 8 illustrates this method of ventilation. In the Auckland Province it may be found that this amount of ventilation is inadequate during the summer months. This can be improved by allowing a gap of greater depth than 4 in., or by placing special adjustable or controllable openings in the back of the house.

Where it is intended to construct a long house, to be divided into pens, under most conditions (Auckland again excepted) it is advisable to have solid wooden partitions between each pen, to prevent draughts, which occur in a long-tubular-shaped house.

It is not possible here to describe the several methods of ventilating laying houses which have a full-span or apex roof, but poultry-farmers are advised to discuss ventilation methods with someone experienced in this matter before constructing houses of this type. It will be found that the old-fashioned type of ridge caps at the apex of the roof are liable to result in bad down-draughts during a strong wind. Such draughts are undesirable and can be avoided by a proper type of ridge ventilation.

4. Protection Against Rain at the Front of the House.—With an open-fronted house there is a danger of rain driving in with a wind blowing directly on to the front of a house during a storm. This trouble can be obviated to an appreciable extent by an extension of the roof, either straight-out for about 2 ft. 6in. following the roof-line, or by a hood of the type illustrated in Fig. 9. Such an extension or hood will also afford some protection from rain to the poultry farmer when passing down the front of the house during inclement weather.

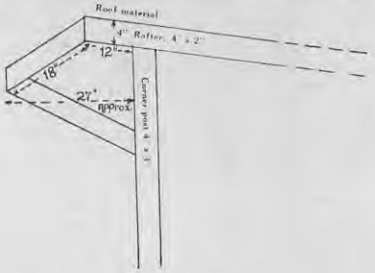

Fig. 9.

5. The Floor.—It is highly desirable that the floor of a laying-house should possess two principal characteristics, namely, that it is dry and that it lends itself to easy and thorough cleaning. **To obtain a dry floor the floor-level inside the house should be well above the level of the ground surrounding the house.** This is a most important point to bear in mind when constructing a poultry-house. An additional precaution in the case of a concrete floor is the use of a hard core of stones, rubble, etc., placed under the 2-3 in. of concrete which constitute the floor itself. Where wooden floors are used they should be kept at least 6 in. above ground-level, to allow the free passage of air under the floor. It is preferable to raise the floor higher to allow of access under the house in case rats establish themselves there.

Earth floors cannot be recommended, since they are difficult and laborious to keep clean. Should disease break out, much of the earth must be removed and fresh supplied, whereas with concrete and wooden floors with a smooth surface cleaning and disinfecting are rendered comparatively easy. Good concrete floors are entirely satisfactory for poultry and are an asset in the control of disease. The surface should be floated off, to give a smooth surface, which facilitates cleaning.

6. Building Materials.—In general, difficulties exist today under war conditions in obtaining building materials for poultry-housing. The materials are, however, available to all poultry-farmers if the correct procedure for obtaining them is followed. To those who are uncertain of this procedure it is strongly recommended that they get into touch with the Poultry Instructor for the district, or write direct to the Department of Agriculture, Wellington. It should be noted that corrugated galvanised iron is **not** available to poultry-farmers, but that timber and asbestos sheeting, both plain and corrugated, are available. Where preferred, timber and roofing felt may be used as roofing material. The latter is not controlled, and does not require a permit for release. It may be added that asbestos sheeting is now being used satisfactorily for walls and as roofing material, in place of galvanised iron commonly in use when supplies were available.

—F. C. BOBBY, Superintendent of Poultry Husbandry, Wellington.

(Continued.)

"The Theory and Practice of Poultry Feeding" (Bulletin 198) has just been published and is on sale at 6d. per copy (post free) at the offices of the Department of Agriculture at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin. It contains information of value to all interested in egg production.