

Chick Nursery Coop

DAY-OLD chicks are raised by the battery brooder system by most poultry farmers in the Blenheim and Nelson districts, where the favourable climate makes it possible to transfer chicks outside at an early age straight from this type of brooder.

THE chickens are transferred from the batteries at three to four weeks, which is too young for the use of the large open range arks commonly favoured in most districts. Consequently a special type of coop, or nursery, as some poultry farmers term it, has been evolved to suit these young birds. It hardens the chickens off completely and acts as an intermediate stage before the young birds are placed in ark houses.

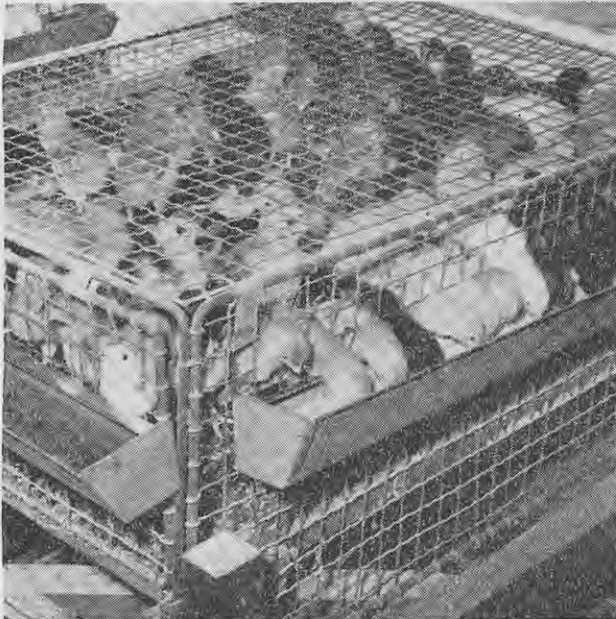
In this article **P. JOSLAND, Poultry Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Wellington**, describes this type of chicken nursery. It was designed by Mr G. L. A. Smith, poultry farmer, Blenheim, and has been used by him successfully for several years.

Design

The design of this chick nursery corresponds in layout to the average battery brooder. The sleeping compartment is at one end, the water at the other, and the feed trough down one side. It is because of this similarity that the easily manoeuvrable nursery is most valuable.

Chickens that have been reared in a battery brooder are not accustomed to searching far for feed and water, which are always within easy reach. Consequently when battery chicks are subjected to a complete change of environment such as moving from the brooder to a large open ark house, they can have difficulty in finding food and water, particularly in bad weather. When this happens the chicks receive a setback from which they seldom

["New Zealand Herald"]



▲ The coops are shifted to a fresh area of ground each day. Failure to move the coops daily could lead to an outbreak of caecal coccidiosis.

▼ Chickens in a battery brooder (left), showing the feeding arrangements, which are similar to those in the chick nursery coop (right).

