INDIVIDUAL BROODY OR HOSPITAL COOPS

by

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For some years the Poultry Department has used successfully individual broody coops like those shown in the accompanying plan. Where trapnesting is practiced the individual coop is highly desirable because if a hen be placed in such a coop through error when she really is not broody but continues to lay, she can be given credit for the egg and immediately liberated. If several hens are confined in the same coop and one lays, not only is it impossible to tell which hen laid but in all probability no hens will be liberated until the end of the normal confinement period for the group, by which time the non-broody hen is very likely to have been thrown out of production.

When used as broody coops the best location is at the ends of the house over the battery of trapnestes, the dropping board of the coops resting upon and serving as the top of the nests.

Where trapping is not practiced, the erection of a battery of these coops will prove a very convenient, safe and sanitary place of confinement for birds suspected of being sick. In the absence of such a place of confinement, too many poultrymen remove such birds from the flock and liberate them in the feed room instead of killing them, which really would be wisest in many cases. The danger of such birds contaminating the feed with their droppings is very great. This suggested use of these coops as hospital coops would reduce this danger.

Construction Suggestions.

The coops may be made in a battery of any length desired. The plan shows a battery of but two.

The battery merely rests upon its dropping board as a table rests upon the floor. The dropping board may be supported by nests or made against a wall as a shelf. The coops have no backs as the wall against which they should be placed serves as a back. Lath serves very well for the internal partitions. Tops, bottoms, and ends are of 1" mesh poultry wire, in each case stapled on from the outside.

For feeding and watering confined birds, cans can be hung on nails driven on the outside of the 1"x4" baseboard just below the spaces at either side of the door. The birds eat and drink through these spaces.