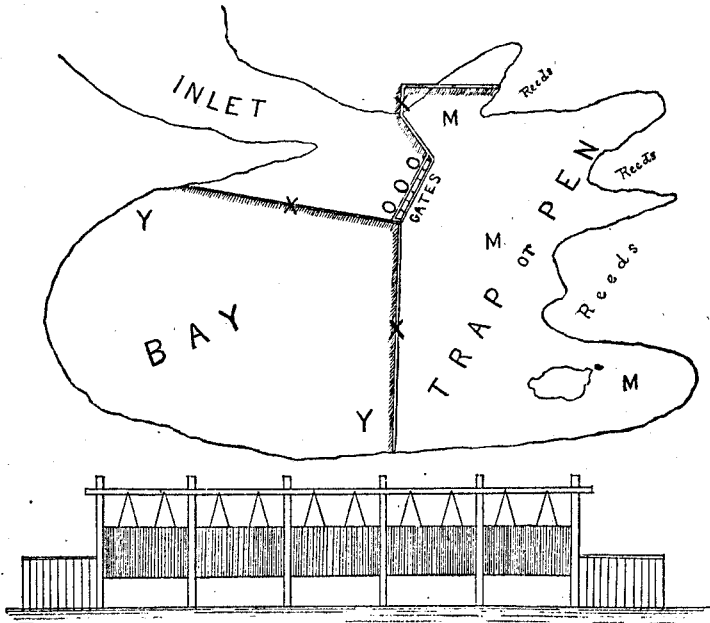


## 27.—DESCRIPTION OF A FISH-TRAP AND OYSTER BASIN.

By J. W. de POINCY.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

On my Amenencourt place, where I live, I have a small land-locked bay of several acres' area, that I have utilized nicely as a fish-trap and



oyster park, merely, however, for my own use. The fence X X X is only useful in keeping the fish out of the deeper parts, Y Y, of the bay, and in forming a passage-way to the gates O O O, that, being shut or lowered at high tide, keep the fish that have entered the pen or trap M M M from returning or escaping; and as the interior of the trap is bare at low water, the fish caught are left high and dry. This arrangement furnishes me, at little expense and trouble, all the fish-food wanted. Mulletts, pompanos, red bass, snappers, young drum, sheepshead, and crevallés are the chief kinds caught. As the bottom of this bay is very muddy and soft, something for the oyster spat to grow on is imperatively necessary, and for this purpose I have put down many pegs or small poles, and also scattered about thousands of oyster shells. I think that the floating spat will cling to and grow upon these objects, and so produce fine oysters. The sheltered location, protected besides by the fence X X X, should prove an admirable situation to carry on the business. I have only lately begun this oyster farming, and am not yet able to give any definite information concerning the success of my plan.

MANATEE, FLA., October 8, 1884.