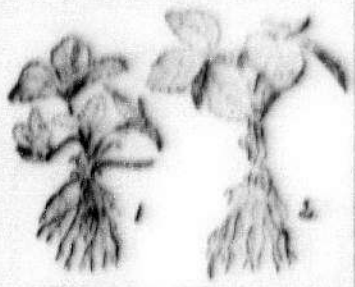
FARM AND GARDEN

PLANTING STRAWBERRIES.

Distinguish Plants and the Right Depth For Setting Them.

All strawberry growers are aware that it is only the plants formed by the runners that should be used for the new plantation. These have yellowish white roots, and can thus be distinguished from the older plants, which have a long stem, at the lower end of which are black or brown roots (Fig. 1); many



OLD PLANT. STRONG YOUNG PLANT.

of which are dead or broken. If plants of good quality, which can be depended upon to give large crops, are desired, those selected for planting should have good crowns and well developed roots (Fig. 2). As a rule only the first plants on the runners should be used.

Dealers in strawberry plants, when picking up the plants after they have been dug, generally remove the dead or diseased leaves and runners, and at the same time straighten out the roots and tie remaining leaves. Sometimes the setting of the plants is necessarily delayed until late in the season, when, if the air happens to be dry, there will be great danger of the wilting and perhaps the killing of the plants from the heat and dryness of the soil and air. Under these conditions it will be advisable to cut off the leaves except one or two of the smaller ones, as by thus reducing their surface the evaporation will be lessened. When plants have been purchased and have become dry or heated in the bundles, it will be advisable to untie the bundles and either place them in water up to the crowns in some cool, shady place, or to heel them in, so that the soil will be in contact with roots of each plant in moist soil, where they can be shaded and occasionally sprinkled. In a few days the plants that have not been killed will recover.

When the plants are being set, equal care should be taken that the roots are not exposed. Should the soil be dry, a pint or so of water should be given each plant before the planting has been completed, this will permit of the drawing of dry soil about it after the water has soaked in, and the baking of the soil about the plant will be prevented. In setting the plants a spade, dibble or trowel may be used. When the dibble or spade is used, a cut is made in the ground to the depth of six or eight inches, and the soil is pressed back in either direction by a side movement of the handle. In the opening thus formed the roots are placed, care being taken that they are not cramped and that they are so spread out that the soil can be brought in contact with each of them. When large plants, with a thick mat of roots are used, this is particularly necessary, as otherwise the soil would only be in contact with a layer of roots upon the outside of this bundle.

There is also considerable danger of loss if attention is not given to the depth at which the plants are set, they should be at such a depth that the bud will be just above the surface as at C in the second cut, for if deeper than this there will be danger that, especially on heavy soil, the bud cannot make its way through the soil, while if not deep enough a part of the roots will be exposed and the plant will be very likely to dry out. If placed perhaps a quarter or half inch deeper than it grows in the field, this will be sufficient to allow for the setting of the plant and will leave it in about the right position. In planting with the trowel the same method may be used as with the dibble or spade, but with a few plants many think it will pay to take somewhat more pains with the planting. A large hole is dug, and in the bottom of this a conical elevation is left, around and upon which the roots are spread.

After placing the plants at the right depth the soil is pressed against them with the dibble or hands, so that it will be in close contact with the roots.

TOO SHALLOW. TOO DEEP. JUST RIGHT.

and the success of the planting will be increased if the feet are used to assist in packing the soil. Pressure upon one side will generally suffice, but if the soil is sandy a foot may be placed at either side of the plant. The continued and repeated pressure with the feet about the plant, as practiced by some, is not advisable, according to Professors Taft and Gladden, who treat of strawberry culture in a recent bulletin of the Michigan station, from which the foregoing extract is made.

To Prevent Swarming.

B. C. Aikin says there are two ways: "Hive the queen and bees in one section of the hive just as the flow comes on, making a new or strengthening weak ones with the brood or by excluding the queen from part of the hive ten days prior to the flow; then at the beginning of the flow take the queen and unsealed brood to a new stand and give the bees and sealed brood on the old stand a ripe cell or virgin queen."—Progressive Beekeeper.

PROTECT THE BIRDS.

Evidence of Their Good Services in Destroying Insects.

The University of Nebraska has issued as special bulletin No. 3 of its department of entomology and ornithology "A Plea For the Protection of Our Birds," by Professor Lawrence Bruner, who presents the subject for the greater part from a business and practical point of view. To quote briefly:

"In nearly every case where the food habits of our birds have been carefully studied we find that the good done far exceeds the possible harm. Allowing 50 insects per day as an average diet for each individual bird and estimating thus we have about 15,000 birds to the acre, or in round numbers 15,000,000 birds in Nebraska, there would be required 1,875,000,000 insects for each day's rations.

"The stomachs of four chickadees contained 1,038 eggs of cankerworms. Four others contained about 400 eggs and 105 mature females of the same insect. The stomach of a single quail contained 101 potato beetles and that of another upward of 500 chinch bugs. A yellow billed cuckoo shot at 6 o'clock in the morning contained 18 tent caterpillars. A robin had eaten 175 larvæ of bibio, which feed on the roots of grasses, etc.

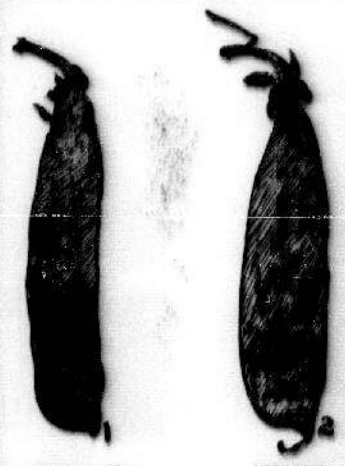
"In addition to the actual good that birds do in the destruction of noxious insects many of them are engaged for at least one half of the year in hunting out and devouring the seeds of various weeds and other, to us, useless plants. Such is the mission of the various sparrows, snowbirds, finches and longspurs which often occupy our fields in flocks of thousands during the winter months."

It is recommended that parents and teachers instruct children against the useless destruction of life and especially that they prevent the killing of birds. "The making of bird egg collections is getting to be such a fad that almost every boy enters into it more or less zealously at some time or other. Some single collectors in a single season take 500 or more eggs. This should be stopped."

As Like as Two Peas.

The Rural New Yorker illustrates the Station pea and the Surprise, as here shown, and says:

"At the Rural grounds the Station pea was tried when first introduced,



STATION PEA. SURPRISE.

about 1893. The claim was made by the catalogue makers that it was the earliest wrinkled pea ever introduced. We tried it and found the claim correct. When the Surprise (Gregory) was introduced, the same claim was made. Last season the Station and Surprise were planted side by side, and we compared them closely in all respects without being able to detect any difference. Picked without selection, Fig. 1 shows the Station and Fig. 2 the Surprise. Both kinds were planted April 1, the first picking of each being June 7.

From replies to inquiries addressed to various seedsmen, the journal quoted finds that they are not all of the opinion that the two peas are alike, and that a letter from the originator of the Surprise gives evidence that these peas are of different parentage. The New Yorker, however, emphatically pronounces the 1897 Prosperity and Gradus to be the same pea, and is not prepared to say what name it should justly bear, but suggests Prosperity.

One Thing and Another.

The growing of dwarf Essex rape for stock food is becoming very popular in many sections of the west.

As to wheat prospects, The Prairie Farmer says that in Illinois early wheat is in excellent condition, the later sown winter killed to some extent. Best estimates for Nebraska show an increase in acreage over last year, with about 20 per cent winter killed. Yield will therefore be about the same. Report from Kansas of most unfavorable character.

Mountain Rose and Elberta peach trees stood the severe cold of the past season better than other varieties in the Kansas station orchards. All the Japanese plums show serious injury, also all the apricots, while a slighter injury is to be noted on the European and American types of plum, the cherries and the pears.

In endeavoring to explain to our own satisfaction the habits of the alfalfa plant we have reached the belief, says the Iowa Homestead, that its roots will go a long distance for water; that they will practically cease to grow when they reach it, and that it needs for the production of a good crop a large root system. The result of these three facts is that if it finds water close at hand it never makes the large root system it requires, and consequently never succeeds well.

Nitrate of soda has been found superior to barnyard manure alone, and, on the whole, only slightly less effective than complete fertilizers for tomatoes at the New Jersey station.

Some Queer Fruit.

The breadfruit tree of Ceylon is very ornamental. Its fruit is baked and eaten as we eat bread and is equally good as a nutritious food. In Barbados, South America, is a tree which by pressure on the trunk produces milk, which the inhabitants use for their children. In the interior of Africa is a tree which produces excellent butter. It resembles the American oak, and its fruit, from which the butter is prepared, is not unlike the olive. Park, the great traveler, declared that the butter surpassed any made in England from cow's milk. At Sierra Leone is the cream fruit tree, the fruit of which is quite agreeable in taste.

At Table Bay, near the Cape of Good Hope, is a small tree the berries of which make excellent candles. It is also found in the Azores. The vegetable tallow tree also grows in Sumatra, in Algeria and in China. In the island of Chusan large quantities of oil and tallow are extracted from its fruit, which is gathered in November or December when the tree has lost all its leaves. The bark of a tree in China produces a beautiful soap. Trees of the aspindus or soap berry order also grow in the north of Africa. They are amazingly prolific, and their fruit contains about 38 per cent of saponin.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Refused to Take More Pay.

A writer in Ainslee's Magazine tells how Irving M. Scott, the man who built the Oregon, once refused a raise in his salary. The firm was then building the Saginaw for the government. Donahue was at the legislature much of the time soon after Scott's arrival, and affairs at the works were at sixes and sevens. Brodie, the foreman, threatened to leave and did leave, and Scott, without authority and although only engaged as a draftsman, took entire charge and directed things for two weeks until Donahue's return. He introduced system into the methods and made affairs run along so smoothly that Donahue was pleased and made him permanent foreman.

About this time Donahue offered to increase his wages, but Scott thought over the matter and declined.

"If I break my year's contract with you," he said to Donahue, "I'll have to take what you give me. I prefer to keep my contract, and when it's up you'll have to pay me what I'm worth."

Donahue looked aghast. "You're the first man," he said, "that I've ever known to refuse a raise of pay."

Results justified Scott's foresight. At the end of the year he was re-engaged and was paid just four times what Donahue had offered him.

Dressed For the Jury.

Pretty women on trial have a habit of dressing so as to impress the jury, but the highest type of this art was naturally left for development in Paris, where toilets are "composed" for the occasion. An example of the art was in evidence at the trial of Mme. Bianchini, who was accused of having disposed of her husband in an unlawful way. "Her costume," says a chronicler, "was the essence of outraged dignity and resignation, and at the same time of elegance, due to her position as a mondaine Parisienne. She naturally was all in black, with a mantle close fitting at the waist and a high collet de mongolie. The severity of the low hat, with its ostrich plumes, was relieved by her jaunty way of symbolizing her confidence in the triumph of innocence in that the left brim was turned up, sheltering a little bunch of peacock tips."

True Thrift.

Hicks appreciated the shrewd as well as the humorous sayings of the Cornish country folk. There dwelt not far from his abode a dairywoman and her husband who had begun life in a very small way with one cow, and who, by industry and thrift, had acquired quite a number.

"How is it," said Hicks to her one day, "that you have got on so well, Mrs. P.?"

"Well, you see, Mr. Hicks," she replied, "most people be allus thinking of what they do want, but I and my old man, we be allus thinking of what we can do without."

Taking a Walk.

Justice—What have you to say in answer to the charge of stealing this man's plank walk?

The Accused—I took it by advice of my physician, yer honor. He told me to take a long walk every day. This was the first long walk I saw today, and of course I took it. A man can't afford to employ a doctor unless he takes his advice.

Justice—The court, however, will give you advice for nothing—three months' rest. You will take it in the house of correction.—Boston Transcript.

Miles of Advertising.

No street in the world is more plastered with advertising than Broadway, New York. Even to those recognizing that fact the amount does not appear startling until it is put into figures. The combined length of the two sides of Broadway from the Battery to Central park is 53,80[illegible] feet. The amount of advertising on the buildings and in shop windows is such that it would take a man between eight and ten days of eight hours each to read his way up one side and down the other.

Not So Bad as That.

"What would you say," asked the fair theosophist, "if I should tell you that I was born in Egypt 3,000 years ago?"

"Why, I should certainly say you don't look it."—Brooklyn Life.

It is asserted that women are on the whole cooler and more self possessed than men in cases of disasters at sea.

Korea is exactly the size of Kansas, 82,000 square miles.

WE PULLED A ROSE IN SUMMER TIME

[illegible]

—Elizabeth Akers, Poets of Connecticut. May added.

HEARSE DRIVING.

How Steadily Employed at It in the Larger Cities.

In smaller cities and in the country the hearse driver may between times drive other vehicles or engage in some other work, but in a city of great population like New York, where, in the natural course of things, many deaths occur daily and where many hearses are used and kept constantly employed, hearse driving is a regular occupation. There are many hearse drivers in the city who have been thus steadily employed for many years. Only careful and skillful drivers are employed in this capacity.

The letting of hearses is a long established custom in this city. Many liverymen own from one to a dozen hearses and let them to sextons and undertakers. Perhaps half of the undertakers of the city do not keep hearses, but hire of the livery owners. So it commonly happens that in answering calls from one source and another the hearses owned by the liverymen are constantly employed. It might be that all the hearses owned in a stable, whatever their number, would be called for day after day and week after week, as regularly as so many carriages or other vehicles might be, and so it comes about that hearse driving is here a steady occupation, just like any other.

While hearses are commonly driven to and from the various cemeteries in and about the city, they are sometimes driven out of the city to various nearby cities and towns. Hearses have been driven to greater distances, but they are not often driven more than 12 or 15 miles away.—New York Sun.

Limits of Heat and Cold.

Extremes of heat and cold can be produced artificially to such intense extents nowadays that it is a physical impossibility to measure them with absolute accuracy. "We cannot measure the infinitesimal," says Charles Whiting Baker, editor of Engineering News. "The best we can do is to make careful estimates. The greatest heat produced artificially is that of an electric arc furnace, the kind that is used in the production of artificial diamonds, calcium carbide, etc. It is so intense that nothing exists with which to record it. It is estimated, however, to be of about 4,000 degrees F.

"The coldest known temperature is that of liquid air, which freezes alcohol and mercury and distances all means of measuring. It is claimed for it that with it a temperature of 400 degrees below zero Fahrenheit is reached. The present limits of heat and cold are therefore represented by the arc furnace and the liquid air."

His New Coat.

They had been chums for so long that when the one gave a chafing dish party to some of his more intimate feminine acquaintances the other made a point of returning early from the theater in order to be present. Chum No. 2 had hardly made his appearance before chum No. 1, in his anxiety to chatter nonsense with the prettiest girl in the room, managed to upset a basin of beaten egg yolks down the front of his new Tuxedo. Chum No. 1 was much distressed apparently, and chum No. 2 hastened to his assistance.

"Go into my room and take mine," he adjured his friend generously. "I've a brand new one; just came home today."

Chum No. 1 smiled queerly. "I know it, old boy," was what he said, grinning in a rather forced fashion. "Fact is—well—my own looked a little shabby this evening and I've got yours on."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Its Meaning.

"Oh, yes," said Miss Flyppe, "Mr. Gayson is a nice enough fellow, but he ought to have his clothes made by a tailor."

"How do you know he doesn't?" asked young Throggins.

"How do I know? I can tell hand me downs on anybody by the way they fit."

"That means," bitterly soliloquized young Throggins as he wended his way homeward an hour later, "that I'll have to pay $35 instead of $15 for my next suit."—Chicago Tribune.

How Coffee Grows.

This is how coffee leaves and berries look at about the time for the harvest: The coffee tree is an evergreen plant, growing 10 or 12 feet high. Its leaves are a dark, shiny green on the upper side and paler underneath. They are five or six inches long and from two to three inches wide. Flowers come in fragrant white clusters and give place to berries which when ready for gathering are a deep red. It takes from four to seven years to bring a plant to bearing.

The Ruling Passion.

Customer—What is the price of this calico?

Salesman—Sixteen cents a yard.

Customer—Sixteen cents! I'll give you 15.

Salesman—You misunderstand me. I said 6 cents, not 16.

Customer—Six cents a yard! H'm! I'll give you 5.—Boston Transcript.

In the northwest provinces of India goats frequently eat without any ill effect the leaves and green stems of the "akana" or "madar" (Asclepias, or Salotropis gigantea), the milky juice of which is an acrid poison for human beings.

L. H. FENSKE,

Wholesale Dealer in

WINES LIQUORS AND CIGARS

Agency for Val. Blatz's MILWAUKEE LAGER BEER Keg and Bottled

AND ALSO

White Rock Mineral Water

BILLINGS, - - MONTANA

DO YOU KNOW

THAT

The Gazette Job Department

Turns out a better class of work than any other printing establishment in the Yellowstone valley.....

We are prepared to do any class of printing on short notice.....

We employ only first-class workmen, and consequently can guarantee.....

FIRST-CLASS WORK

Burlington Route

NEW SHORT LINE FROM MONTANA, IDAHO AND PUGET SOUND

TO CHICAGO OMAHA

H. B. SEGUR, GENERAL AGENT, BILLINGS MONT.