

of my neighbors; for the better order she is kept in, the sooner will she again begin laying.

In the fall, the stock is carefully inspected; a number of handsome Brown Leghorn hens set apart for winter laying, another certain number of the purest looking Plymouth Rock hens selected for breeding purposes next spring, and a third lot, usually of Plymouth Rock hens more than one year old, is destined for the table during winter.

Next spring we shall probably get a new set of Plymouth Rock cockerels, and during the season perhaps a few settings of eggs of each breed. Our chickens are remarkably healthy and very prolific, which we think is due to the fact that the stock is changed very often, the house and yard kept as clean as possible, and special attention paid to providing them a variety of suitable food. Our table is liberally supplied with poultry at all seasons, and last winter we had eggs both to sell and to keep, while our neighbors went a-begging.

IN THE FRUIT GARDEN.—Plant the strawberry on a perfect level with the surface of the ground, or a little below, never on a ridge or hill, says Mark W. Johnson, the practical horticulturist and well known fruit grower. The plant has a tendency to rise up out of the ground. He advises planting eighteen inches apart each way for a small patch. For field culture plant in rows three feet apart and twelve inches apart in the rows. Following are the distances apart for planting the various small fruits, recommended by Mr. Johnson:—

- Plant grape vines eight to sixteen feet apart.
- Raspberries should be four feet apart in mellow soil and protected from the southwestern sun.
- Blackberries should be planted four feet apart.
- Gooseberries three feet apart.
- Currants three feet apart.
- Use no fresh manure around the roots of vines; apply it on the surface.

FALL OR SPRING PLANTING.—The question whether it is best to plant fruit trees and shrubs in the fall or spring, must be decided not only by the climate of the locality, but by the character of the location. Where the autumn is usually prolonged, and the trees can get well established before severe weather comes on, it is usually better to plant in the fall. The soil is then warm and mellow and the work is pleasant, and the roots find a more genial bed, than in the cold spring when the ground is long in becoming dry and warm, and other work is so pressing that planting does not receive the proper care.

OUR COSY CORNER.

Artificial flowers are going out of style in England and lace is coming in. The value of the artificial flowers imported in 1882 reached the enormous sum of two and a half millions of dollars, while in 1886 it fell off to one million and a quarter. On the other hand, the value of the lace taken into England in 1882 was about three millions of dollars, and it increased in 1886 to more than all the artificial flowers, but Holland and Belgium were lively competitors in the lace trade.

To take rust out of steel, rub the steel with sweet oil, and a day or two later with finely powdered unslacked lime until the rust disappears, then oil again, roll in a woollen cloth and lay away in a dry place.

"Good House-keeping" says that the best rule for the use of different kinds of flour is to use pastry flour when baking powder is used and bread flour with yeast.

Clean piano keys with a soft rag dipped in alcohol.

Two moonstones set diagonally, and having a diamond between, forms a unique engagement ring.

Large Directoire hats with low crowns and projecting brims are imported both in velvet and felt. These are stylish and picturesque for visiting and carriage wear, but for general uses the toque and the English turban will be highly favored. The "Aureole" hat is another rather striking model for dressy wear. The crown is wreathed with large, full ostrich plumes; and at the edge of the brim is a band of the same plumage, short and fluffy, which surrounds the face like a halo.

Red wool dresses, so popular at the seaside, will continue to be worn by fashionable young ladies this and the next season. These dresses are very usually made with a yoke or vest of black watered silk, an immensely broad and long sash of watered ribbon, and a plain, full skirt with a deep border at the foot, either of the black moire silk matching the vest fabric or of moire ribbon of a narrower width than the sash. Now Roman red gowns from Paris are shown, made with a skirt covered by three flounces, each flounce bordered by several rows of very narrow black moire ribbon. The bodice is pointed and trimmed in like manner.

Sprinkle salt immediately over any spot where something has boiled over on the stove, and the place may be more easily cleaned. This also counteracts the bad odor.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? It so, send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhoea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle.

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