

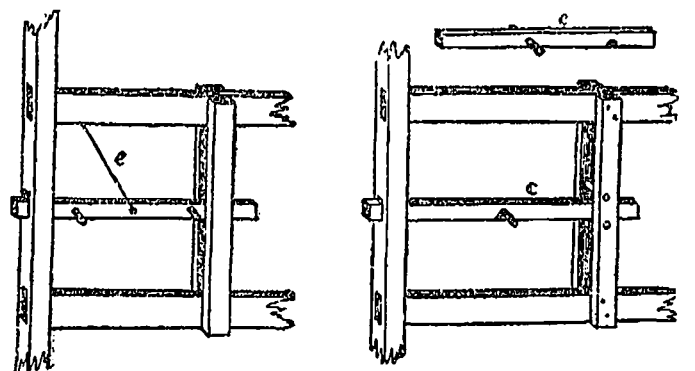


Convenient Rustic Gate.

MANY of the most frequently used farm pathways lead through fields in places distant from the waggon gate. An ordinary small gate on such a path is very apt to be left open, permitting the stock to trespass on growing crops. A stile over the fence is generally unsightly, and climbing the steps is only less inconvenient than climbing the fence. A suitable gate for such a pathway is shown in the illustration. This gate is always open for people, but when a four-footed animal attempts to pass, the gate swings against an outer post of the triangle and closes the way. A person standing in the angle can easily swing the gate so as to make a wide passage-way. The hinges should be strong, and the gate so heavy that the wind cannot move it quickly.

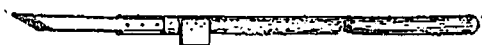
Fruit Gathering.

DESIGNS for fruit ladders are legion, some good, some bad, some indifferent. That illustrated here is good. Placed under low branch-

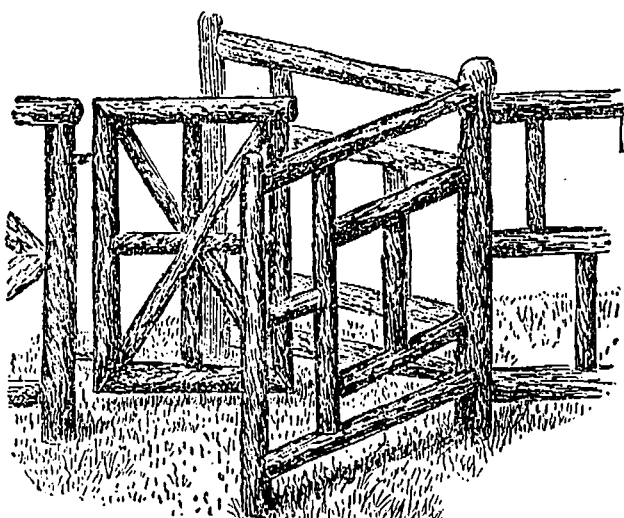


SWINGING LATCH.

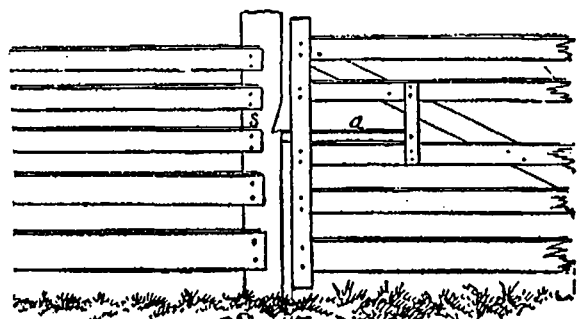
ANOTHER FORM OF LATCH.



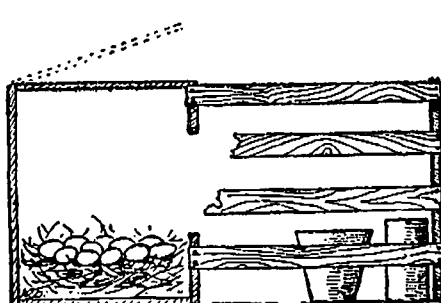
IMPROVED LAWN CHISEL.



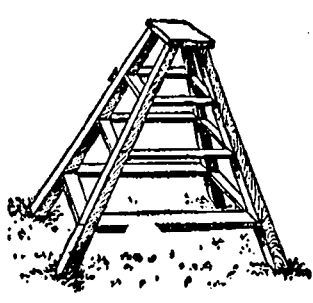
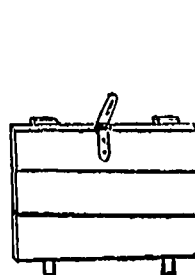
CONVENIENT FARM GATE.



SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE GATE LATCH.



IMPROVED HEN'S NEST.



QUADRUPLE STEPLADDER.

ing trees its use permits one to move about within reach of a large portion of the whole side of a tree, because of its four sides, about which one can freely step. Moreover, when not occupied as "standing ground," the top affords an excellent resting place for the basket. It will be found exceedingly convenient for the home orchard, where one may desire to pick but a basket or two of fruit at a time, and wishes to make a selection of those in the best condition for picking.

Gate Fastenings.

THE form of the gate latch or fastening is an important portion of the structure, and care should be exercised in its construction. The form shown in Fig. 1 is very simple and effective. The latch, *a*, is of hard, tough wood, eighteen inches in length, three-quarters of an inch thick, and one and a half inches wide. Through the inner end a wooden pin holds it in position. When the gate is closed the outer projecting end rests in a notch cut in the post, as at *s*. All the plans shown admit of the gate opening either way if desired. In Fig. 2 a swinging latch is used, which should be about the size of that in Fig. 1. It is suspended by a wire at *r*. Two wooden pins prevent it from being moved too far in either direction. The plan in Fig. 3 is quite similar to the others, and is clearly shown. The latch, *c*, is shown in an enlarged form. A notch is cut in the lower side, which rests on a pin when the gate is closed, the weight of the latch keeping it in position. Next in importance to the hinges of a gate are the fastenings, which should invariably be made of the very best material.

Sodding the Yard.

A FARMHOUSE without its grass plot is a desolate place. The dooryard is a true indication of the taste and character of its owner, being just as much needed for the comfort and education of the farmer's family as any other part of the farm. The past twenty-five years have improved the dooryards of western farms, wonderfully; yet there are too many littered with ash barrels, chicken coops, and the many other odds and ends that accumulate if there is no distinctive part set aside for the lawn or grass plot.

One need not expect the clean-shaven, compact sod of the city lot, laid off with geometrical precision, but the farmer can have the yard immediately around the farmhouse well set in blue grass, with a shade tree here and there. Two or three mowings in early summer and one or two in the fall, will make it a pleasure and a comfort to the inmates of the house. We

often hear the excuse given for the absence of grass around the house: "I've sowed blue-grass seed a dozen times, but never could get a stand." First and foremost, chickens must be excluded, at least until the grass becomes established. Then, in early spring, if the yard cannot be plowed, as is too often the case, rake the surface with a steel-tooth rake, removing all trash, boards, sticks and stones. Sow the surface with timothy seed.

As soon as the blue grass is well started in the pasture, or in the fence corners, cut some sods and set them in the yard here and there. The closer the pieces of sod are together, the sooner will there be a blue-grass sod in the yard. I put down a sod, say six by eight inches, every five or six feet, and, if the weather is dry, I keep the sods well watered until they get established. By the third year these will have a very close sod. I assist natural self-seeding, by scattering a part of the ripened blue-grass seed in the bare spots. The great enemy to blue grass in the dooryard is the plantain. This must be watched and attacked before it gets too much of a start. To fight this I took a piece of steel one-and-a-half inches wide and one-eighth thick, had the blacksmith punch three holes to screw on to the end of a broom handle, took it to the grindstone and ground it chisel fashion; nailed a block on the side just above the chisel for a footrest, and I had a tool that could cut out a plantain, without destroying any grass or making an unsightly hole. [See illustration.] A little grandchild, six years old, often uses it as effectually as a grown person; indeed every member of the family uses it, and a few minutes, now and then, keeps the plantain in subjection. A carpenter's framing chisel, with a socket for the handle, can be bought very cheaply, and is the best tool for fighting this and other noxious weeds on the grass plot.

Milk in the Well.

The illustration on next page shows a simple and successful creamery that any farmer can, with a little expense, construct. The first thing required is a well of good size in diameter and of cool water. I made the experiment early last spring by hanging the cans in the well and was so satisfied with the results that I made the needed arrangement for hoisting and lowering the cans by use of a crank which can be attached to each roller. Three cans are all that are needed in my creamery, each one holding a milking, which allows 36 hours for each setting. The cans should have covers to keep out dirt and insects, but not be air-tight, and can be made to hold a larger quantity where more cows are kept, but should be about three times the height of the diameter, with the space between the curb floor and the case roller to allow the can to pass freely through. The sketch is so simple it seems unnecessary to explain its construction. One point to be kept in mind is to see that the cans are not set too deep in rainy weather as the water may rise and overturn the milk. Snaps are used on the end of the rope to attach the can, as seen in Fig. 1. The cover of the case is so made that when closed it slants back to shed rain. The front piece is detachable and sets in so that when closed it can be locked with a padlock. All who have seen it think highly of it as it is a creamery without the use of ice, which is expensive to have and a great deal of work to use.