

itself by an elevation of temperature which was greatest at the end of twenty-four hours when it began slowly to decline.

An onion, similarly treated, acquired an increase of temperature many times greater than shown by the potato, and the fever, instead of being confined to the vicinity of the wound, affected the whole onion. In fact, the onion appeared to be more easily affected in this way than any other vegetable experimented with. This curious rise of the temperature of the plant is caused, doubtless, by the increased absorption of oxygen.

NOTES ON STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

(Concluded.)

In this northern climate one of the most important considerations in strawberry-culture is winter protection, this must by no means be neglected else we shall find when spring comes that all our labor has been spent in vain and in place of a fine bed of green plants will be found a mass of blackened leaves. One of the best coverings for this purpose is the tops of the asparagus when cut in the fall, but they are not always to be obtained and a very good substitute may be found in swamp-hay when it can be procured easily and at a nominal cost, pea straw or strawy manure also does very well, but none of these must be applied too thick to smother the plants, or the bed may be ruined as effectually as from lack of covering. In the spring, as soon as all danger from frost is over, the covering may be removed and burned and the ashes used as a fertilizer.

There is considerable art in picking strawberries and as much difference between one picker and another as there is in any other business; for instance, one picker will seize a bunch of berries, and in his efforts to get the ripe ones twist and mangle the remaining green ones so badly that they eventually wither away before coming to maturity and are thus a complete loss. Another fails to sort the berries properly and their selling value is thus injured, while a third will gently and dexterously remove the ripe berries without juring the green ones in any way and sort them with the greatest care; it is therefore of the greatest importance to select pickers who will handle the berries carefully and sort them properly. In gathering the crop no small or inferior berries must be allowed amongst those intended for market, each picker must carry 2 baskets or berry boxes, one for the first class berries, the other for the smaller ones and those damaged by birds.

The best method of marketing the berries is in the quart berry boxes or cups, which can be got at a nominal price and are much preferable to the larger packages, in which the berries are likely to get squeezed, and do not present such a fine appearance. Cases can be procured in which from two to six dozen of these boxes can be easily packed and they are then in convenient shape for marketing. The inferior grade of berries can be readily sold to some canning establishment. In any well kept strawberry bed not more than two consecutive crops of berries are taken off the same piece of land, as the plants bear best when young and after two or three years the ground begins to harden and the weeds to become more numerous, it should then be plowed under and planted in some crop which will clean it, such as corn or a root-crop.

There are many insect enemies to the strawberry, among which are numerous borers, gall-flies, and cut worms; the ravages of some of these pests can be checked to a considerable extent by the use of hellebore; the common white grub (the larva of (1) the *May beetle*) also works considerable damage by cutting off the young plants below

(1) The cockchafer.