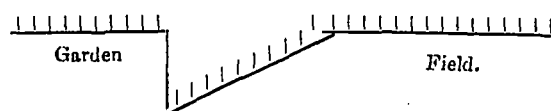


one who cultivates a piece of land, whether it be a little garden plot around his suburban or village home, or a farm on the broad prairie, should ever bear in mind that Order is Heaven's first law, and disobedience to it must always be expiated by loss and disappointment. If the land of the cottage garden is too wet for successful cultivation it must be promptly and thoroughly drained. This may be usually done by digging a ditch along the outside and forming an outlet or a little dumb well or "swallow" at the lowest corner. When the garden adjoins a public road, or field where cattle are kept, of course a strong fence is requisite. A picket fence will answer the purpose until a good evergreen hedge of spruce or cedar can be reared, which, if kept neatly clipped will be ornamental and a good wind break on the side next the cold winds. If your garden is so situated as to enable you to get a view of it from the house and the fields adjoining, it would be better not to have any hedge to block the view, and in that case—what is called a sunk fence will best answer the purpose—it may be constructed thus :



Garden hedges should always be kept clear of weeds at the base, otherwise they will be a retreat for slugs and mischievous insects. Timber and large growing ornamental trees should have no place in or near to a small suburban garden ; their roots rob the soil of its fertility and the branches over shadow the land so that the amount of useful crop is curtailed.

When a garden is broken up first it should be trenched, perhaps not all at once, but piece by piece, until the whole is done. While trenching should not be too deep, it is indispensable for deep rooting plants, and serviceable to shallow-rooting ones ; if too much of the subsoil is not brought to the surface, trenching improves the soil by securing a better circulation of air and moisture, and heavy rains and droughts do not have injurious effects.

Frequent applications of manure, sometimes intermixed with the soil, sometimes as top dressing, must be used and if a cow, horse, poultry or pig are kept they will be a source of profit in the manure they make for the garden. In the garden, liquid manure can be applied, and a cesspool, if

well covered or with some sand plaster frequently sprinkled in it, will be found handy and profitable. Crops should be regulated by the real wants or judicious tastes of the family.

As on a farm, a rotation of crops should be made in the garden to produce satisfactory returns and keep the land in prolonged fertility. These details will occupy the attention of the proprietor and practice will teach him year by year what to do and what to avoid, and success will make him the more anxious to learn and take an interest in the work. Two or three simple rules will be useful.

The soil in a garden ought always to be worked with a spade or hoe only when in a dry or nearly dry state and never when drenched with rain. Beans should be dibbled into the ground, and onion seed made firm by treading, because they form the most vigorous roots in firm soil. All other seeds should be sown in a loose friable soil, in which they can strike root freely. All sowings and transplanting should be made on freshly dug soil. It is needless to say that all weeds should be killed as soon as they appear. Beds of seedlings of cabbage and the like, should be kept for transplanting, and every yard of ground should be kept filled up with a crop.

Any attempt to cultivate large trees in a garden is a mistake because they would overshadow and destroy the vegetable crop, but some rows of gooseberry, currant or raspberry bushes, or a small bed of strawberries would not be out of place. Many a man who is confined to the office or workshop would find the advantage to his health, to his morals, and to his pocket-book, if he could secure a suburban lot with a convenient electric car track running near and where he could have a castle of his own surrounded by a *domain*, of only the size of a small garden.

GEO. MOORE.

THE MAGUEY PLANT.

What is called the Maguey plant by the Mexicans, by botanists *Agave Americana*, and popularly the Century-plant, is put to many uses. A textile fabric and many other stuffs are made of its leaf fibre, a liquor called *mescal* is made from the juice and is used as a medicine, a drink called *pulque* which answers to the natives the same purpose as the light wines of the French or the