

from the ground, so as to leave a 'nato' Irish stump. Half through the hole he begins to doubt if it be indeed a chestnut or a poplar; and casting his eye aloft to measure it anew, an ancient woodpecker drops something smarting in his eye; and his howl starts the ruminating team into a confused entanglement among the young wood. Having eased his pain and extricated his cattle, he pushes on with his axe, and presently with a light crash of plant boughs, his timber is lodged in the top of an adjoining tree. He tugs, and strains, and swears, and splits the helve of his axe in adapting it for a lever, and presently, near noon, comes back for three or four hands to give him a boost with the tree. You return—to find the team strayed through a gate left open, into a thriving cornfield, and one of your pet tulip trees lodged in a little young hickory.

"Och! and it's a tulip it is! and I was thinkin' 'twas niver a chestnut; begorra, its lucky thim, it didn't come down intirely."

These and other such replace the New Englander born, who long ago was paid off, wrapped his savings in a dingy piece of sheepskin, scratched his head reflectingly, and disappeared from the stage.—*My Farm of Edgewood.*

Experimental Farms and Gardens.

We do not know of anything which would be more interesting on a farm than a small experimental ground. New plants and seeds come into notice every year, but only a few know which are most valuable, and the great public depends on the newspaper editor, some interested correspondent, or the reports of some agricultural society to tell him all about them. Finally, the strength of what he reads, he invests considerable money in some article or another, plants considerable ground with it, and finds out only when too late that it is not at all suited to his climate or soil.

It oftentimes happens that an article really good in a majority of cases is of very little value in some particular spot. This is just the sort of knowledge no paper or society can teach, but which a small experimental garden would readily supply. At market, or when visiting friends, one often has a few seeds or roots given him which may be very useful to him, but which is lost chiefly because there is no spot assigned for the testing of these things. There is indeed a disposition in many cases to regard these presents of new things as bores, and they are often accepted because it is not thought courteous to wound a friend's feelings by refusing what he regards as somewhat of a treasure. We once knew a friend who always felt this way. Many a thing he had accepted and then threw on the rubbish heap. On one occasion he had half a dozen Early Goodrich potatoes given him. But these he happened to plant in his garden, without, however, blessing much the hand that gave them to him. But he was struck with their beauty and productiveness—it happened to be one of those years when that variety did wonderfully well—and the next year had a considerable tract of them. It was at a time when this variety was bringing almost fabulous prices, and his profits on his friend's gift were tremendous. Of course one would suppose after this he looked well after these odds and ends of new notions as they came before him; but the lesson profited him not. He had no regular place to put things, and never thought to make one. No doubt he has lost many a good chance equal to the Early Goodrich one.

But besides the pecuniary value which often results from trying experiments, there is a great amount of pleasure from watching things grow that we never saw before; and we are well assured that no one who established a small experimental ground on his farm could ever after be without it.—*Mass. Ploughman.*

Flax Culture.

In this locality, it has been our practice invariably to sow at the last quarter of the moon in May. For one acre, one bushel of perfectly clean seed is plenty. Sow evenly; to do this, sow both ways, taking a still time when there is no wind. Be careful not to fill your hand too full; otherwise you may lack seed at the cross sowing. The land should be a sandy loam, that was planted to corn or potatoes and well manured the previous year, and kept clean from weeds; ploughed fine and smoothed evenly with a fine-tooth harrow; then sowed as directed and covered with a light brush. The time to harvest is when the bolls are well filled and begun to turn yellow. Pull and keep the butts even; tie up in small bundles; set up in small stooks; and when perfectly dry,

draw to the barn and put away in the stables adjoining the barn floor, thrashing at some time before your second harvest comes on. Have your barn floor swept perfectly clean; take a five-pail iron kettle or an empty barrel, place it in the middle of your barn floor, and set the boys to whipping the bound bundles over the edge of the barrel or kettle, keeping the butts even; throw the threshed bundles out in your yard, and if it rains on them before spreading, all the better. Rott'ing by spreading is our practice. (We have never tried water-rotting in ponds.) Draw out on a smooth, dry meadow, well protected from stock of all kinds; then commence spreading on the upper part of the meadow. One man to turn and "handful" out, and one man to follow and spread, are sufficient. Keep the butts even and spread smoothly; no lapping of one gavel or row on another is allowed. When rotted nearly enough, turn over the gavels with a pole eight or ten feet long, running it under the tops and turning it over. If grown for seed, we get twelve bushels from a bushel of seed-sown. When rotted enough, rake up in good sized bundles and bind; keep the butts even, and draw to the barn on a very dry day; pack away over your barn floor under the roof.

A word as to "getting out flax," as they call it here. When March comes, have your "break" and "swinging board" and "swinging knife" ready, and go at it (a dry day is best); unbind and "handful" out, and let the sun slum upon it a little. Finish it all if you can this month. A barn full of flax and no hay the first day of April is rather a poor sign in this locality.—*Cor. Country Gentleman, Mass.*

Working Cattle-Yokes and Bows.

With working cattle, one of the most important requisites is that they be as well housed and fed as you would horses. It is true they need not be blanketed, neither need they be fed so much concentrated food as horses, but good care and feeding pays as well with working oxen as horses.

Another point for consideration is the desirability of yokes as compared with harnesses. While we concede the value of harness for the waggon, the yoke has so many advantages in other directions, as in logging, ploughing, etc., that we think it will not be soon superseded.

The proper shape, length and construction, therefore, of the yoke is of importance. For medium-sized oxen, the whole length of the yoke should be three and one-half feet; the distance between the bow holes inside, should be twenty inches; the distance between the outside and inside bow-holes, six and one-half inches. This would give as the distance from outside to outside of the bow-holes, thirty-three inches, leaving four and one-half inches on each side of the yoke beyond. The bows, as to length, must be proportioned to the neck of the oxen, being somewhat oval in form, the swell about one-half of the way between the bottom of the yoke and the bottom of the bows, or, where the ox's shoulders come; the bows when formed to be not less than one and a half inches thick. The staple and ring should be placed in a direct line with the holes for the bows and equi-distant between the inside holes, unless one of the oxen is much the stronger, when it must be varied so that the weaker animal may have the longer end of the yoke.

The proper form for a yoke cannot be described in words. The workman must get a good model to work from. Yellow birch, beech or maple make good heavy yokes; for ordinary work, basswood (linden) is both easily worked and makes a good light yoke. If thoroughly oiled after being made, and this be repeated occasionally, it will last indefinitely. With basswood, six inches should be allowed from the outside holes to end of yoke. When a yoke is to be made for particular animals, a good rule is to stand them squarely together and so that their bellies are six inches apart. Then the distance from outside to outside of the necks is the distance between the outside holes; the inside holes to be at such a distance inside as to give free play to the neck without allowing it to twist under the yoke.

The bows are made by first working out strips of hickory or elm, to the proper size leaving a strip of bark on the outer edge; then steaming the wood thoroughly in a hot made for the purpose, and then bending, while hot, round a form cut for the purpose, in a block of wood, say the stump of a tree, and properly securing them there until set. We should never advise the farmer to make his own yokes or bows where it is possible to buy them, since they are far more perfectly made than can be done with the tools usually at hand to the farmer or village blacksmith. Both yokes and bows, are now easily procured at the agricultural stores in our large towns and cities. There are many places, however, where

yokes and bows cannot be procured, and in this case it is well to know how to make them. This can be done by any one handy with tools, having a pattern to work from.

It will not be out of place in conclusion to say that, in training steers, they must be taught to submit quietly to be yoked and unyoked. It may take some time and require some patience, and a judicious feeding as a reward, but the driver will be well satisfied in the end, when either steer will come at the word to be yoked or unharnessed. Another point is to make them work equally well on either side, and in this there is no trouble. A yoke of one-half or three-quarters bred Devons, that are well matched for activity, will do fully as much work at ploughing, dragging and other like work as any ordinary team of horses, and are worth fully as much money; nay, more, for when unfit for work they may be fattened for the butcher and will bring fully three-quarters of their original working value.—*Western Rural.*

The Granary.

Some place to store grain is a necessity on every farm, whether devoted to raising stock or grain. Those farmers who own only a small piece and raise just enough grain to supply the needs of the family, generally resort to an unoccupied room in the chamber of the house. This seems to us to be a bad practice, for unless the room has been built on purpose for that use, it is apt to draw a flood of rats and mice to the house. Then, who wants to carry all his grain up a flight of stairs as it is taken from the threshing floor, and down again when it is to be taken to mill?

Another class store their grain in bins built of rough boards, and very likely thrown up in a hurry in one corner of the barn. Rats and mice (and quite often hens) have free access to this at all times. They consume and carry off enough grain in a few years to pay for a well built granary. The place for a granary is, undoubtedly, in or near the barn where the grain is to be used. It should be rat-proof. And let us tell you how ours, which we claim has that quality, is constructed.

It is built in one end of a shop which stands near the barn. We selected the toughest white oak lumber we could find. It was one inch thick and six inches wide. This was taken to the mill and matched. (Did you ever see a rat hole through the joints of matched lumber? We never did.) Having a good floor of hard ash lumber and our studs set, we boarded it up on all sides with this lumber. But before we commenced this, we tacked a strip of tin about two inches wide to the floor next to the studs, letting it extend inward. When the first board had been firmly set upon this and fastened, the inner edge of the tin was turned up and nailed to it. No chance for rats there, said a neighbor who happened to be in while we were at work at it, and some ten years trial has proved that he was correct. The bins were partitioned off, the ceiling lathed and plastered, etc.—*Cor. Ohio Farmer.*

THE FOLLOWING is the latest obituary:

"Here lies interred Priscilla Bird,
Who sang on earth till sixty-two;
Now, up on high, above the sky,
No doubt she sings like sixty, too."

"If you wish to know whether it is going to storm or not, all you have to do is to find the storm vortex and see which side of it is the most moist. Multiply this by the square of the latent heat, subtract the time of day, and divide by the weathercock. The result will be the rarefaction, plus the thermometric evolution of the north pole, and then a wayfaring man, though a natural know nothing, can tell what will follow."

VALUE OF LEATHER SCRAPS.—Leather scraps are a very valuable fertilizer. The best way to utilize them that we have discovered is to bake them in an oven until they become quite brittle, and then to pound them with a wooden stamper or a flail upon a barn floor. In this way any waste leather may be made useful. They furnish an acceptable fertilizer for grape-vines, and may be hoed in around the roots. What will they cost?—*American Agriculturist.*

SOME of our readers who have lived fifty years may be glad to know what they have accomplished in that time. According to a French statistician, the average man has, at that age, slept 6,600 days, worked 6,500 days, walked 800 days, amused himself 4,000 days, spent 1,500 days in eating, and been sick 500 days. He has eaten 17,000 pounds of bread, 16,000 pounds of meat, and 4,600 pounds of vegetables, fish, etc., and drunk 7,000 gallons of liquids. There are 18,250 days in a half century, and from the above statement it would seem that man slept just one-third of the time.