

Extracts from Our Agricultural Exchanges.

LAWNS.—After the present date, (Oct 7) it is well to cease mowing lawns. The grass will grow a few inches and form a thick mat over the whole surface, affording the best and most easily procured winter mulch for the roots of the grass, and bringing out the green blades some days sooner in spring than where the lawn is kept closely cut until winter.

—*Country Gentleman.*

CLOSE PLANTING OF RASPBERRIES, CURRANTS, &c.—We are more and more becoming converted to the practice of close planting and close pruning of the above. Take, for instance, black raspberries or blackberries, grow them close in a row, and like a hedge, by keeping them well cut as they grow. This makes the branches stiff so that they do not get down in the dirt, and are easily passed among to get the fruit, and, too, by mulching the entire surface, the same amount of mulch mulches a much larger number of vines. The roots of all kinds of plants run much further than few people have any idea of, and simply mulching around the plant does not answer the purpose. The roots of a plantation of raspberries and blackberries or strawberries, or even currants, run through the entire surface, and hence to be properly benefited, the entire surface must be mulched or kept worked by hoe and cultivator, and the part that most needs this is the extremities of the roots. Currant and gooseberries must have a cool, moist place to do well, and, if planted on dry soil, this is best secured by a heavy mulching of the entire surface. So if fruit, and that of the best quality, is sought for, sow close, prune close, and mulch heavily is our advice.

—*Fruit Recorder.*

A TREE PROTECTOR.—There was on exhibition at the New England Fair a model of a very simple, elastic guard for keeping horses from gnawing the bark from roadside trees. It is a simple pailing of slats to surround the trunk, but, instead of being nailed to the tree or set on the ground to rot, it was suspended by elastic springs, which would give as the body of the tree enlarged. We consider it well worthy the consideration of owners of roadside shade trees. It is utterly absurd to spend time and money in planting trees along our streets when the first horse that comes along is allowed to stop and leisurely make a dinner from the bark, while the owner is, perhaps, thoughtlessly smoking a cigar at a neighboring saloon.

—*Gardner's Monthly.*

PURE-BRED SHEEP.—

The cross-bred races of sheep are the most popular breeds with those who look to the wool and mutton for their profit. The pure-bred sheep (so called), or those which go back to a long distance for their origin, are chiefly bred, not for their value in wool and mutton, but for the purpose of crossing on other races for the production of a really profitable market sheep. The prices South Down, the Cotswold, and especially the Leicester, are found to be less profitable sheep for the farmer than the Oxford, the Hampshire and the Shropshire sheep. These last are cross-bred sheep, and, among English farmers, go by the significant name of the "rent payers." In Germany and France, the pure-breeds have been found less profitable than cross-breeds, and we are now making the same discovery in this country. There is a popular need for a sheep which produces a carcass of choice mutton along with a fleece of wool which bears as high a price per pound as that of any of the purer breeds, and which can be brought to early maturity and made to weigh heavily at less expenditure than the pure-bred sheep. At the same time we want a sheep of hardy constitution, which can stand the rough usage of the farm better than the high-bred races. It does not pay the farmer to keep the pure-breeds for the production of mutton at 6c. to 8c. per pound. But he can produce half-bred sheep by the use of pure-bred rams, whose mutton will be worth the highest

price in the market, from ewes whose mutton would not bring more than 4 cents a pound.

—*American Agriculturist.*

BURYING ROOTS.—There is one way of burying roots so that the frost will not get at them, and that is, the placing of layers of straw between the layers of earth with which they are covered. It is necessary to be more careful with potatoes than with any other roots, as they will not stand the slightest frost without being injured. Potatoes should be laid in compact heaps and covered carefully with straw. Over the straw put about eight

inches of earth, and over the earth a good thick layer of straw. Over all put six or eight inches of earth. Frost will go through almost any thickness of earth alone, but it will not penetrate far below the non-conducting straw. The earth should not be packed any harder than will suffice to keep it in place. By using straw and earth combined, time is saved in uncovering when the roots are wanted to be got at. If the snow is blown from the heaps during the winter, and the cold is very

intense, it will be well to cover them with a coating of coarse manure.

—*Colonial Farmer.*

PROTECT THE BIRDS.—During the year several of our correspondents have given their testimony in favor of the quail as an insect exterminator, and have advocated their better protection from the roaming members of sporting clubs, that get past all the useless game laws simply for their own accommodation and gratification. We have just seen the statement of an Ohio farmer, who shot a quail for the purpose of satisfying himself as to the truth of the claim that birds are insect exterminators. He found in the crop of his victim one cutworm, twenty-one striped vine bugs, and over a hundred chinch bugs.

Now, in view of what we are all beginning to understand regarding the immense destruction being done, by chinch bugs especially, it is easy to see that farmers want a complete revision of our game laws, and that they should be made for the complete protection of the birds, and through them the protection of our crops.

—*Prairie Farmer.*

Salt should be furnished to all animals regularly. A cow, an ox or a horse needs two to four ounces daily. Salt increases the butter in milk, helps the digestive and nutritive processes and gives a good appetite. The people of Interior Europe have a saying that a pound of salt makes ten pounds of flesh. Of course, salt only assists in assimilating the food; it does not make flesh nor muscle.

Branding Cattle.

This scene, branding cattle in Texas, presents a striking feature of the stock raiser's and herdsman's life on those vast plains, where the brand is the only means for the owner of many hundred, or even thousands of the semi-wild cattle that roam at large over the unbounded country, to tell his from the thousands among which they pasture free and unrestrained. Here we see the steer or heifer driven within the enclosure, and held fast with the lasso, and hard by the iron heated in the blazing fire to impress the indelible brand on the side.

Such stock as here represented by our artist, as they cost little, so are they worth little money. Their price is from \$5.50 to \$7 per head, taking the whole head or brand, as it is called by the herdsmen. When fattened they are sold from \$20 to \$30. When driven North, they not unfrequently smite with the Texas fever the cattle of the farmers along their route. This, as well as the low price at which they are sold, make their approach dreaded by North-Eastern breeders.

Farmers who have threshed their fall wheat and barley are highly pleased with the yield which has been realized. Mr. Geo. Gould, of this township, sowed nine bushels of barley on a little over three and a half acres of land, from which he has a return of upwards of two hundred

bushels, or about sixty bushels to the acre. We have also heard of others who have realized large returns. With such well authenticated reports in our possession, we have no doubt as to the prospect of better times among all classes of the community. Money will soon be much more plentiful, trade will work up, and our commercial interests will very rapidly assume a more encouraging aspect.

—*Ingersoll Chronicle.*

