

TREATMENT OF THE STRAWBERRY FIELD AFTER PLOWING AND BEFORE RE-SETTING.

THERE are various methods of treating an old strawberry bed to get the soil in good condition for resetting it to strawberries, which requires not less than two years. When the strawberry bed becomes unprofitable it is plowed up, as soon as the crop is harvested. The straw is not burnt off unless it is so heavy as to hinder plowing. We usually mulch two-year-old beds also. The land is again plowed in the fall and seeded to wheat or oats the following spring. After the grain is harvested we apply manure at the rate of fifty loads to the acre. The land is then plowed immediately after the manure is spread. The next year corn is planted, without plowing. We go over twice with the cultivator and finish with the harrow. The ground is then in good condition for a crop of corn. In the fall when the corn is cleared off the ground, which we do as early as possible, we again plow, this time quite deep.

During winter we haul about eight loads

of soft wood ashes to the acre, which is put all in one pile on this land, and covered with to keep from leaching. Only soft wood ashes are obtainable here, but any amount of it can be had at two neighboring creameries and one flouring mill. The object of hauling the ashes in winter, is because time is too valuable in spring when the ashes are to be used. The ashes are easily distributed over the field with one horse and a road scraper and afterwards spread with a shovel.

In the spring before planting time, the ashes are spread and the land gone over with the riding cultivator until it perfectly free from weeds.

Of course the corn stubble is now on the surface and must be removed, but it takes one man with a hand rake only half a day to clear one acre. After this is done, the land should be gone over once with the harrow. The land is then ready for marking and resetting of the strawberry field. — *Report Minn. Horticultural Society.*

APPLE STOREHOUSE.

MY house for storing fruit is one that was on the premises and not built for the purpose. But I find it quite convenient. It is a stone building 26x34 feet, with good walls 2 feet thick, well laid in mortar. To make it so I could hold fruit through the winter, I lined it inside with matched lumber, making an air space of about 10 inches between the wall and lining. It is a two-story house. I protect from cold by putting straw on upper floor about 4 feet thick when settled. It kept the fruit well. I make a fire in it only three or four times through the winter, on account of extreme cold.

I could, with but little expense, make it good for cold storage by putting 8 or 10 12-inch galvanized iron pipes through the upper floor, letting them down 3 or 4 feet, and filling from above with crushed ice and cheap fertilizer salt. I have used it as it is, opening the doors nights to cool off and keeping it closed during the day, except when putting in more fruit. I pick and put in barrels in the orchard and store them open. In rainy weather I can sort and pack for market or cold storage, near market, by Nov. 15. I have seldom kept a crop over.—*H. Hill in American Agriculturist.*