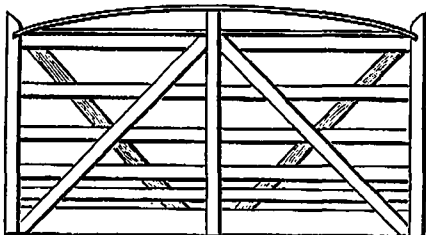




A Strong Farm Gate.

A NEAT and strong farm gate is shown in the engraving. The upright at each end is three by four inches; the bottom board is six inches wide; all the

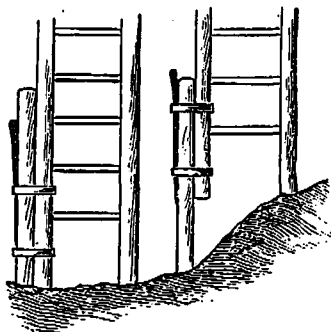


WELL-BRACED FARM GATE.

rest of the gate is made of inch boards three inches wide. The middle uprights are nailed on both sides of the gate; the other constructive details are so plainly shown in the illustration as to need no explanation.

An adjustable Ladder-Foot.

EVERY one who has had to pick apples in a side-hill orchard will understand the value of the device illustrated herewith. It is an adjustable extension for the foot of a ladder, and consists of a piece of wood about two feet long and of the same width



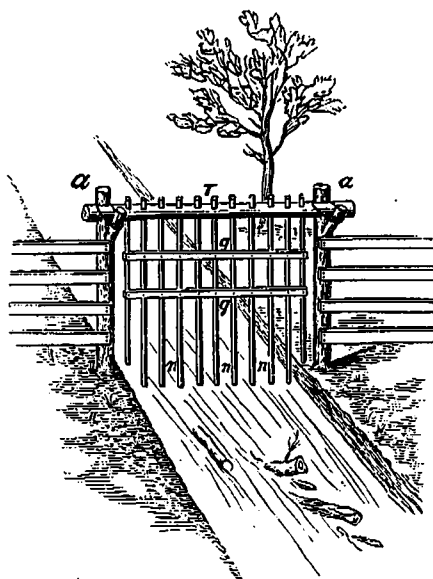
LADDER FOR HILLY LAND.

and thickness as the foot of the ladder. It is held in place by two iron straps which are firmly bolted or screwed to the ladder, but large enough, especially the upper one, to give the extension piece plenty of space. When the ladder is set in place, the loose piece drops of its own weight to the ground, as shown in the right hand side of the engraving. It is firmly fastened there by a wedge of hard wood or, still better, of iron. Winter is the most convenient season for making such contrivances.

Flood Gates.

FLOOD GATES are constructed by only a few farmers in a proper manner, and many are compelled after every freshet to rebuild the fence crossing the stream. This should not be so, and need not be if the plan shown in our illustration be followed. Forked posts are firmly set or driven near the edge of the stream: in the prongs at the top is laid a long pole *r*, in which have been previously bored two-inch holes, and split strips *n n n* long enough to reach the surface of the water in a dry time are inserted in these holes. To these strips are firmly nailed other strips, *g g*, making the whole gate firm and very substantial. Immediately above the supporting pole *r* at each end, wire is attached to the forked parts, as shown at *a a*. This keeps the whole apparatus firmly in position. It is plain that as the water rises and presses against the bottom of the strips *n n*, they are pushed down stream and all

flood wood or even stumps, when the current carries them against the strips, are not retarded in their progress, as the bottom of the gate swings down



stream and of its own gravity comes in position again as soon as the freshet subsides. This is certainly a cheap, serviceable affair and the most rapid current will not destroy it.

An Effective Snow Plow.

THE device for breaking winter roads originated in northern Wisconsin, where there is frequent occasion for something of the kind. It proves eminently useful, and is not patented. The runners



are each eight feet long, twelve inches broad at the bottom, and the same in height, as shown in Fig. 1. They are cut from logs of suitable dimensions. The fronts are not rounded from below like sled runners,

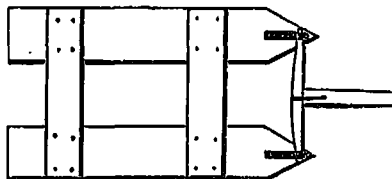


FIG. 2. TOP VIEW OF PLOW.

but sharpened to a point, so as to plow their way through the snow. The mode of construction is so plainly shown in Fig. 2, as to need no minute description. It is easily seen that such an implement will require only a small part of the power necessary to draw a snow plow of the usual V shape through deep snow, and at the same time this one leaves a sufficient amount of it to make a good track.—*American Agriculturist.*

A DRUGGIST, whose premises were overrun with rats, caught one, painted him with a preparation of phosphorus and turned him loose after dark "gleaming like a fireball." Dire consternation came upon his fellow rodents when he appeared, and all incontinently fled and never returned. The experiment is worth trying.

To increase growth by pruning, do it when the tree is dormant, or before the buds swell in the spring. By reducing the number of the shoots, the growth of the rest is increased. If the pruning is done when the tree is growing or in leaf, the growth will be checked. But if the amount cut away be small, little check, will be given, or if the land is rich and cultivated and the growth very strong, a light check will do little or no harm. These general rules will apply to all kinds of trees.

HAVE a good look at the seed catalogues and examine them critically, for they are worth it. Of

course they are bewildering in their multiplicity of varieties, but seedsmen are compelled to make them so, for the public demand a large assortment of seeds to select from. Among such an array of sorts, what is one to select anyway? Consult your own personal experience, and, if you have not before now grown any vegetables, find out among your neighbors what varieties grow best in your vicinity. Remember that there is a vast difference in soils, situations, and cultural conditions in different places, and some sorts of vegetables that do well in one place are poor enough in another. Plan for your vegetable patch now while you have some leisure, and enter the plans in your note-book, and then when the season of gardening and planting arrives, you will not be worried about the arranging and timing of your crops.

It is a pertinent question at this season to ask how shall we manage so as to be reasonably sure of a stand of clover. A correspondent believes that one of the things to do is to sow early. He believes the first ten days in March to be the safest time to seed clover, and when February is ending, he begins to watch for favorable conditions, which are a bright, clear morning, with a frozen surface and a reasonable certainty that before noon the land will thaw. He desires these conditions because they insure that the seed will soon be covered. It prevents the seed being washed off the land or into the low spots, as it is likely to be if sown on a dry, uniform surface and a heavy rain falls before a freeze. When sown on a frozen surface and a thaw quickly follows, the seed is at once stuck fast to the soil and a few freezes and thaws cover it entirely out of sight. He believes ten pounds of seed to the acre (a bushel to six acres) to be the best quantity of seed to sow; although he knows that under favorable conditions a bushel to ten acres will give a perfect stand, it will undoubtedly pay to use more seed.

As a rule high-priced seeds are the cheapest, because more care has been taken in selection of stocks to produce them, which incurs additional expense. There are many instances, however, where farmers are paying high prices from the mistaken idea that they are getting a better quality for their purpose. This is particularly true in regard to seed-potatoes, an article which the farmer thinks necessary to "change" occasionally, if not annually, because of the liability of the "stock running out." This is a costly error which no farmer should commit. The facts in the case are, that if the farmer wisely selects from his own stock for seed purposes, it will improve rather than degenerate. Let him first find out what varieties do best with him—and some varieties do far better in a given soil and situation than others. From these, seed-potatoes should be selected before any are sold or consumed. Every farmer has noticed that some hills yield more than others; that some vines are stronger, more branching, are short and stocky. From these the best should be saved for seed, and the best are those of medium to large size, of uniform shape, and smooth, and where there are the most in a hill. Follow this practice up, and in a few years there will be a marked improvement in the type.

The Stock.

LAMBS will gain more flesh in the same time and upon the same feed than mature sheep. Twenty five to thirty pounds per head is a good gain for lambs during four months feeding and twelve to fifteen for wethers. The profit, of course, as in everything else, depends largely upon the price realized, though the cost of feeding varies considerably in different years. While the profit may not be often large, yet considering the season of the year, the large production of very valuable manure, and the rapid conversion of large quantities of coarse fodder, those farmers are wise who, having means to do so, devote the winter months to the feeding of sheep for market, as a valuable adjunct to their farming operations.