

Association in first-class condition, and I will have seventy-five young plants to set next spring. I got one hundred Woolverton strawberry plants from Mr. Little last spring. They are good growers, but shy runners. I intend planting them in check rows. I have planted a good many Williams, but they have not done well as yet. Yours truly,

ELLEN FEAR, *Elmira.*

A Peculiar Calla.

SIR,—When calling on Miss Kingston, of Port Colborne, recently, that lady drew my attention to a Calla Lily in her drawing-room, having a peculiar flower growth. The plant was in a very healthy condition. On observing it at a distance of a few feet, there appeared to be two spathes from the same stem, fronting each other. Upon a closer examination, one of the formations was seen to be less perfect in form and more irregular in outline, rather longer from base to point and having a small part of its extremity quite green. As the spadix was entirely absent, it must, I suppose, have been a leaf, although it had the exact color and velvety appearance of a spathe.

J. B., *Lindsay.*

A New Tool.

SIR,—With me the Fay's currant is only a moderate bearer, but is a luxuriant grower. The wood is too weak, and I have not yet been able to form the bushes into a handsome shape. Last year I allowed no shoots to grow more than five or six inches long, and pruned them, as well as the other currant and gooseberry bushes, three times, giving the last pruning immediately after the fruit was picked. As it was the first time I have pruned so often and so closely, I am awaiting the results. I am an amateur gardener, and only a twelfth hour amateur at that, for I am a retired tradesman, "who has seen his winter's sun twice forty times return." I have used a hoe—I call it a weeder—for nine or ten years, which anticipated what is now called the Crescent hoe. It is made out of two pieces of an old scythe blade wanting the back, two ends of which are rivetted together at an angle of a little more than 90°, thus (Fig. 743): A small piece of round iron, one-half inch in diameter, is rivetted to it and receives the handle (Fig. 743). I find it very useful among bushes of every kind, as well as in the strawberry plantation. I run it under about an inch below the surface. My soil is varying loam, and I do not know how it would answer in heavy soil. I find that a common garden rake is improved by fixing the head on a hinge, so that the teeth can move back and forth about 60°. The rakes now have the teeth about square off the back of handle, and made their best work when they are pushed from you at an angle of about 30°, behind a perpendicular line, and the hinge, when the rake is turned toward you, allows it to go as far on the other side of the line. Thus it grinds down lumps without raising them, while, if you wish to rake the refuse off the surface, a few minutes' work alters it to a stiff rake.

R. STEED, *Sarnia, Ont.*

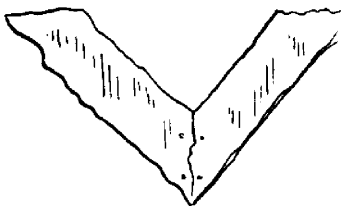


FIG. 743.—BLADE OF HOE.



FIG. 744—ATTACHMENT OF HANDLE.