

about 10 hours, and the sacks stand filled in the outer room ready to cart away. It is universally allowed to be a capital piece of machinery, doing the work of 100 men in the day of 12 hours. All the different movements are put in motion by a 12-foot waterwheel only 3 feet wide, with 9 feet head of water, with 15 rotations per minute."

Could our modern machines equal this day's work with an equally small water power? I think not. And although corn could not be thrashed for seed or malting by this machine, yet the great power would still make it a useful machine for feeding or grinding purposes. Can any of your correspondents inform me of the principle of this machine, and whether this or any similar to it are still in existence. The taking in corn to thrash seems a very good idea. The employment of two boats moored with an undershot wheel between, so as to take advantage of river currents or tides, has not been ventured on in England. Yet when we look upon the weight, the plenty, and the power of finding its own level in water, it is easy to imagine that it might be pumped up and stored in reservoirs, so that every house in a town might have water power in household concerns, as turning spits, cleaning knives, &c., merely by turning a cock; that as we use currents of air in our winnowing machines to separate light bodies into different classes and fineness, so currents of water will come to be employed for heavier bodies, as they are now for washing earth for brick; and that as we have currents of water used in irrigating, so by previously saturating these currents with earths and manures we shall manure and give a new coating of soil to our barren lands without the expensive labour of carting.—*W. R.*

#### PREPARATION OF STRAWBERRIES FOR FORCING.

There are two methods in use for preparing strawberries for forcing. We will first state the one in general use, as less time is required. The pots generally used are number twelves; these require one or two inches of broken pots for drainage; the pots are then filled with good rich strong loam. As soon as good rooted plants can be obtained from the runners of the present year, they are taken off and planted in the pots. The small-fruited varieties, as the Alpines, Scarlets, and Roseberry, may be planted three in a pot of this size; but the others, as Keen's Seedling and the British Queen, only two. As soon as planted they should be well watered and placed in an open situation. They will require watering daily in dry weather, and when it is very hot twice a day. It is advisable to plunge the pots to save them from the influence of the sun, as its powerful rays at this season of the year often burn the roots. Some persons are in the habit of pinching off the runners as

they appear, but to this practice we strongly object, as it causes the plants to make fresh runners, and exhausts them by causing them to expend the *true sap* which they have collected for the production of blossoms and leaves in the following spring. The better plan is to let them grow till late in the autumn, and cut all away together. The other method is to prepare a piece of good ground in the spring, and plant good runners of last year in rows, twelve inches apart in the rows, and eighteen inches row from row, keeping them free from weeds. The runners may be pinched off as they appear; also all blossoms as they shew themselves. In August the plants may be taken up with balls of earth, and planted in pots for forcing. Strawberries will force well a second year, if the pots are top-dressed with good rich soil. Perhaps the best use that can be made of them is to turn them out of the pots (as soon as the fruit is gathered), and plant them in a warm border where they will produce a good second crop in the autumn.

**SAWDUST.**—Its use is more or less easy according as it is the sawing of hard wood or pine trees. That of the former is more absorbent, more easily fermented, and more easily charred. With this premised, 1. Sawdust may be charred with quicklime by being made into a compost with it alone. 1. It may be smother-burned as it is called, with earth or soda, as clay is done in some of our English counties. This, however, is a difficult process, and a workman will make several failures before he gets into the way of burning the heap regularly black. 3. It may be most effectually, certainly, and easily charred in an oven, at a heat below redness, and which does not cause it to take fire. When thus charred it may be laid on the ground directly, may be mixed with manure of all or any kind, or may be used as an absorbent for liquid manure—the drainings of the stable or the fold-yard. 4. But sawdust may also be fermented. For this purpose it may be mixed with earth, with or without lime, and in this way made into a compost, which, upon light soils, or such as are deficient in vegetable matter, will be very valuable. Or, it may be previously employed as an absorbent for liquid manure by spreading in stables, byres, or piggeries, or in the neighbourhood of the fold-yard manure, to as large an extent as it can be thoroughly moistened, when the whole will ferment together and form a valuable manure. Whether any of the above methods can be adopted so as to be largely useful, will depend upon circumstances; but the method of mixing with earth into a compost with more or less lime, and with or without liquid manure, can be easily adopted, and there are very few soils indeed which would not be in some degree benefited by such a compost.—*Report of Agricultural Chemistry Association.*