



Ice Houses.

THERE are two distinct modes of building and filling ice-houses, namely, constructing them with single board or plank walls, with a foot of sawdust between the walls and the ice; or with double walls with the space filled in with sawdust. The former is simpler, more easily managed, and less liable to have air crevices in the sawdust than the latter. Fig. 1 represents a vertical section of such

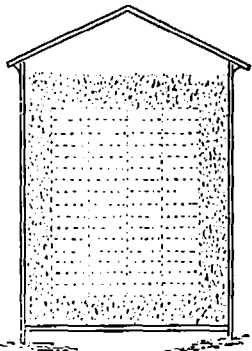


Fig. 1.

an ice house, the contents being built of solid blocks of ice, and the sawdust being compactly filled in as this ice structure goes up. The ice rests on sawdust, and is covered with it of equal thickness. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section of the same. If the mass of solid ice is thus incased on its four sides and top and bottom with compact sawdust, and has good drainage below and free ventilation at the top, there will be no difficulty in keeping ice, whatever the walls may be built with, provided they hold the sawdust in place. The simplest board shanty will answer, provided it holds the sawdust well, and drainage and ventila-

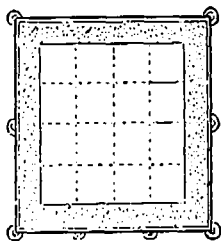


Fig. 2.

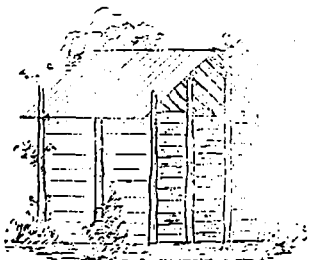


Fig. 3.

tion above are fully secured. Fig. 3 represents a cheap and simple ice-house built in this way, the plank siding resting on the inside of the stout posts, and left open above for ample ventilation. A more ornamental effect is shown in Fig. 4. The most finished and elaborate structure will fail to

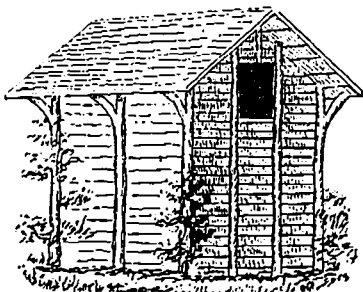
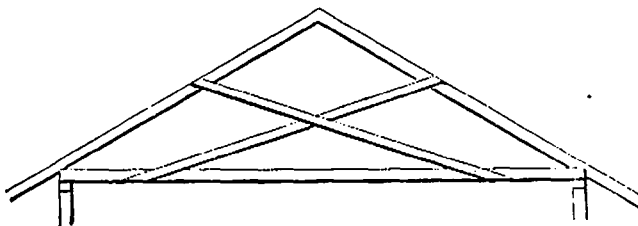


Fig. 4.

keep ice, if the three requisites are absent—compact casing of the ice on all sides with sawdust, perfect drainage, and ventilation overhead. A needless amount of sawdust is often used. A uniform thickness of a foot or 15 inches well applied is quite sufficient; two feet is needless, whether in double or single walls.

A Good Support for Roofs.

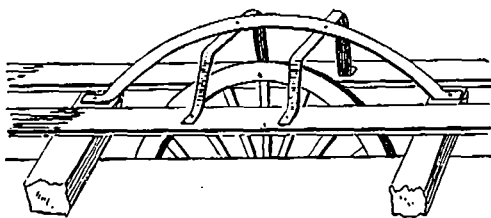
A VERY cheap and strong arrangement for preventing the weight of either steep or flat roofs spreading apart, giving the building the most undesirable appearance of a "broken back," is shown in the accompanying engraving. After the rafters are in position, take stiff board stuff, one by four inches, and nail one end to the rafter about one third of the distance from the top, nailing the other end to the beam, or, in absence of a beam, to the studding or



joists. Where these rafter-ties cross each other they are also securely nailed. These ties, placed upon every second or third pair of rafters, make the most solid kind of a roof, that will never sag even when covered with slate, heavy snow, or tried by the wind. This is far preferable to the common one of simply nailing a strip from one rafter to the other; this plan, as shown, adds strength to the entire structure, costs but little, and would be more used if known.—*American Agriculturist*.

New Use for Old Wagon Tires.

OUR engraving, represents one corner of a wagon rack for hauling hay, corn fodder or other forage. The rack is made in the usual manner, with transverse pieces of four-by-four scantling supporting inch boards extending lengthwise of the wagon. The wheel guard is made of pieces of worn-out wagon tire, cut, bent and drilled without heating. The



ends of the longest piece are held in place by bolts four and a half inches long, with nuts below the scantlings; the shorter pieces by inch and a half bolts. The irons are riveted together at their intersections. The device is cheap, effective and durable.—*American Agriculturist*

THE whitest, choicest potatoes will be injured in a short time in any cellar where one can see to walk around. They will look yellowish when cooked, and their fine quality is gone. They must, therefore, be kept in the dark, which is the only proper way. If you cannot make one room of your cellar absolutely dark, see that your home supply is kept in tight boxes or barrels, and well covered.

The way to make good cider is as simple as it is supposed to be that of making good bread by the good housewife. Take good, sound, ripe apples, wash them, grind, press and store into clean, sound barrels. If barrels are new, they should be soaked well to draw the tannic acid out of the wood. Before filling, clear the cider by repeated racking, and exclude the air from the cider all the time.

MANY a farm contains a deposit of unexpected value in the form of a deposit of muck, in what has been looked upon as a swamp hole. Make an exploration of such places. Learn the depth and character of the deposit. If there are more than one such deposits, see which can best be approached by animals and vehicles to draw away the deposit; which can be most readily drained in order to facilitate the digging. This month will usually afford favorable spells for digging the muck and

placing it in heaps on higher ground, to drain and become more or less dry, so that it can be taken to the barnyard and added to the manure heap.

PUTTING tools in order in the autumn, when they have been variously worn and injured during the summer, accomplishes a two-fold object—the tools are rendered more durable, and they are more efficient and do more work when they are used. The iron and steel portions should be cleaned and rubbed bright, and then receive a thin coating of grafting wax, tallow, or any substance which will prevent rusting. The parts made of wood will be rendered more durable by a copious application of petroleum if they have been unpainted, or if the paint has worn off, and afterwards one or two coats of paint will complete the work of protection. It must be borne in mind that petroleum is useful only by entering the pores of the wood, while the paint stays outside; and both together, the oil for the pores, and the paint for a casing to hold the oil in, form a very complete protection. In putting on the petroleum, take special pains to let it run freely into the joints and cracks.

PEOPLE are frequently met who are suffering from the effects of slight wounds received in ordinary farm work, and as it is the treatment in most cases that causes the trouble, the following advice will be found useful: A cut will heal at once if it is closed and the air is kept from it; but the closing should be done instantly before any poisonous germ from the air can gain access to it. Salves, etc., are only useful in protecting a wound from the air, and stimulating applications only as destroying injurious germs which inflame the raw surfaces. If a cut is instantly drawn close and covered with a strip of sticking plaster and bandaged to keep it so, it will heal, as the doctors say, by the first intention. To keep the cut parts still so as not to disunite them for two days, will generally cause a cut to close and heal. No person need be afraid of a cut unless some artery is severed. A bruised cut requires different treatment, as the injured tissue will slough away, and the discharge must be permitted. Carbolyated vaseline is the best dressing for such a wound, and the part should be kept still and without movement.

It is a common practice to store large quantities of fruit in the cellar of the dwelling house, and a great deal of discomfort and unpleasantness are caused thereby, the source of which is not suspected. Farmers who make a scientific and intelligent study of their surroundings have detached cellars, or those under some outbuildings, where the fruit is stored. Where large quantities are kept, a pit is dug in the earth below the frost line, and some of the later pears and apples buried there with straw until February or March. This is a good practice with those who can afford the space and time for the work; but many have to keep the fruit in the house cellar, if they keep it at all. To them a few hints may be the means of preventing much discomfort and even sickness in the family. During the month of February stored fruit ripens more rapidly than earlier in the year, and more of the poisonous carbonic acid gas is given off as a result. This gas must not be allowed to permeate the dwelling house; it must be turned off in some other channel. If there is no chance to communicate the cellar with the chimney, and a flue thus opened, the poisonous exhalations must be carried away by thorough ventilation. If the flue can be opened a current of air can be kept in motion at all times, and the poison may be readily removed from the building; but if this is impossible, the doors and windows of the cellar should be opened on every mild day. A thermometer should be kept hanging in the storeroom or cellar, and when the mercury is four or five degrees above the freezing point, ventilate freely, taking care to shut up before the temperature falls. Wherever possible, fruit should be stored in cellars away from the dwelling house, as it was never meant to be kept in the latter place.