

## Own Room

3. Whitford.

draperies, chair coverings, cushions and so on, should be of practical material.

ness and the habit of keeping both clothes and room in order ought to follow naturally.  
Long window seats may have hinged tops or doors in front, allowing a place for ball and tennis things.  
Don't Forget the Desk.  
Very early in the boy's life he should own a solid little writing-desk fitted with all the conveniences for

### Minerals Your Hogs Need.

The simplest mineral rations, particularly as regards the number of

## Soils and Crops

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strous blackberries. That spring he set up an irrigation system to use soon as dry weather showed up. The canes flowered profusely, and a bumper crop of berries set on. When weather came, the gardener set windmill going. Whenever the water got low, the patch got a good watering, and the berries flourished. At marketing time Brown supposed berries were the best in the section, so he set his price a little above market and began to brag. Customers came, looked, and went away empty-handed. After a little he learned what was the matter. A few miles away another gardener, named Thompson, had berries of the same variety that were just a little bigger and nicer than his, and he was selling them for less money. Finally an irate customer told my friend what he thought about it.

"What's the reason you are charging three cents more a quart than Thompson, when his berries are bigger and nicer and better flavored than yours?" he said.

"His berries aren't bigger and nicer and better flavored than mine," Brown replied. "They can't be. I've gone to a big expense to irrigate these berries, and there hasn't been a day when they lacked water. It takes plenty of water to make blackberries. I'm the only one around who has irrigated. I have fertilized my berry patch and kept it in the best condition. This other man simply can't have better berries than I've got."

"Yes, they are; and if you don't believe it jump in the buggy with me, and I'll take you out there and prove it to you."

So Brown climbed in, and drove out to see those wonderful berries. On arriving at Thompson's patch he was astonished to find long canes loaded with fine fruit. There were more canes and more berries per cane than he had, and he readily admitted it. The berries were a little bigger, too, and were selling at three cents a quart less. He admitted his defeat, but started at once to find out why.

It developed that Thompson ran a crushing mill each fall, and utilized all the crushed stalks as a winter mulch for his berry bushes. The water from the winter snows and rains soaked down into the soil around those briers, and some of it was stored up for future use. As the soil was well drained, he suspected that a greater portion of the surplus water ran down into the neighboring creek. Yet the stalks themselves absorbed a large amount of water, and held it. During the drought this mulch did not dry out, and the soil underneath remained all filled with water. The root bed was like some enormous sponge that held an unlimited supply of moisture. The rainfall soaked down into the stalk mulch, and the soil became capable of holding more water each succeeding season. Evaporation was stopped by the loose mulch. Artificial irrigation was wholly unnecessary.

Judging from these two gardeners' experiences it seems folly to use irrigation with berries. Instead, let's utilize the old corn stalks.

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