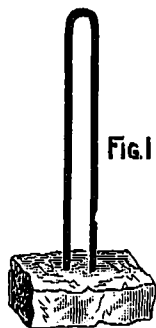


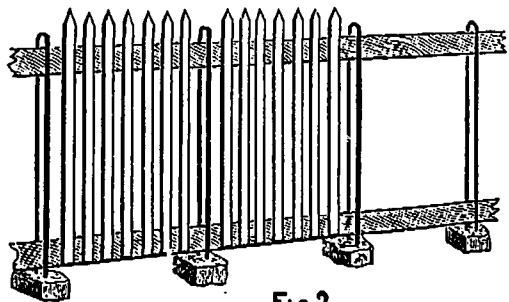


Posts and Fences.

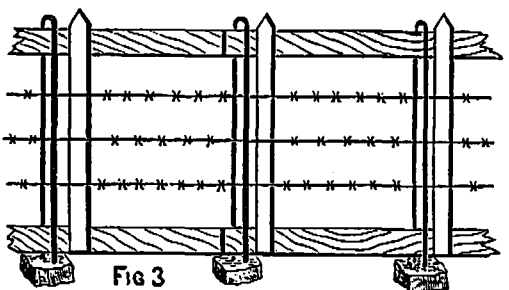
"YOUNG FARMER," Loch Broom, Pictou, N.S. writes us as follows:—Any one who has experienced the vexation of having a good fence spoiled by the posts being lifted, and heaved out of place by the action of the frost, will readily appreciate a post which is not materially affected by the capriciousness of the weather. Such a post is shown in Fig. 1. It is made of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. round iron, bent as shown in



the cut, and the ends cemented in a block of stone in which holes have been drilled to receive them. Any rough stone of sufficient weight will do if not too hard for drilling. The loop is sufficiently wide to receive the ends of the two rails abreast. Posts made in this way have great stability for the small amount of iron used, and will be found strong enough for any ordinary fence. The fence can be finished in different styles, if made an all-rail fence which is the simplest. The rails "pass" at the joint in the post and gluts are fitted in to keep the rails the desired distance apart. Fig. 2 shows how



a picket fence may be made in this style. In order to have a straight face for the pickets and yet fill the space in the post, the rails are butted together at the posts, and a piece of rail nailed on the back to keep them together. Fig. 3 is a combination



fence; pieces of rails are nailed vertical to keep the top rail in place, and also to staple the wire to.

Hinges and Hasps for a Box.

GRAIN chests and other useful boxes may be made on the farm by any one handy with tools. The farmer who has a passable set of tools and ingenuity can always find some kind of wet-weather work more profitable than sitting around the nearest grocery, talking and smoking. Our illustrations show how to make iron hinges and fastenings without recourse to a blacksmith. From a strip of hoop-iron are cut pieces three inches long, in each end of

which a hole is driven with a steel punch, and afterward reamed out to one quarter of an inch diameter by means of a three-cornered file in a bit

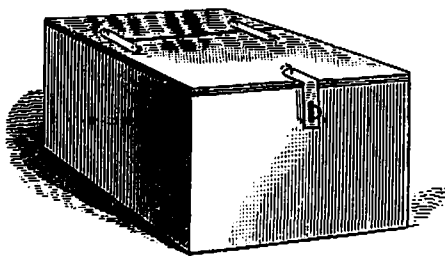


Fig. 1.—Box with Iron Hinges and Hasp.

brace. Staples are made of thick wire and one is driven in at each end of the hinge and clinched to hold it in place. The clasp is made in the same manner as the hinges, save that two holes half an

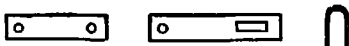
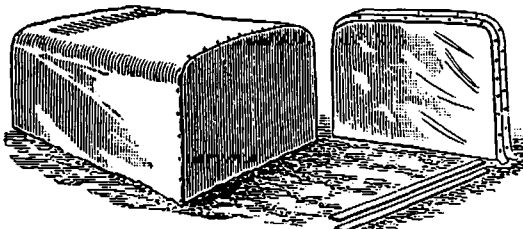


Fig. 2.—Hinge, Hasp and Staple.

inch apart are made at one end, and the slot connecting them cut with a file or cold chisel. The hasp is bent to a right angle, the upper end stapled to the box cover, and a larger staple driven so as to project through the slot at the lower end.—*American Agriculturist*.

A Cheap Plant Protector.

WE illustrate herewith a convenient and serviceable plant protector. It consists of two pieces of inch board, each ten inches wide and fifteen inches long, to the ends and one side of which is tacked a strip of light cotton cloth fifteen inches wide and a yard long. This is drawn smoothly and nailed to the edges of the side pieces, leaving a narrow flap at each extremity of the cloth, upon which earth may be placed to prevent the ingress of cold air or insects. Two narrow, thin sticks are cut to a length



which enables them to be slipped tightly into the inside to hold everything in place. When not in use, the stretchers are removed and the protector is folded together, as shown at the right hand of the engraving. A large number can thus be packed away in a limited space. Anyone can make the protector for a few cents.—*American Agriculturist*.

EVERY farm should have its shelter belt of protecting trees. It adds greatly to the comfort of every living thing on the farm, and everything that adds to the comfort of the dwellers of the farm, be they human or dumb, is a profitable institution to the farmer.

PLANTS in excess of the number needed in the rows do as much mischief as weeds. Uniformity in size and shape of bunch vegetables is the great desideratum with the market gardener. Thinning early and to a uniform distance will insure this desirable feature.

PLOWS and harrows used in orchards should be of the kind which pulverize and mellow the surface, but do not tear up the roots. A good surface harrow to keep the orchard mellow and clean, is a great benefit—especially if employed to grind up top-dressings of manure.

IN transplanting trees it is necessary to cut off and leave a large portion of roots in the ground. This operation checks the growth for a time, or un-

til new roots can be thrown out to replace the old ones. In young and vigorous trees, this renewal is quickly accomplished; and as a larger portion is secured on the young tree than on older ones, the check is only temporary. Older trees lose more of their roots when taken up, and do not restore them so soon; hence the reason that they receive a longer and more formidable check in growth. The only way, therefore, that large trees can be transplanted without seriously suffering, is to shorten all the larger roots a year or more beforehand, by cutting a trench at a proper distance around them, causing them to send out new and shorter roots, which may be removed in place of the longer ones left in the ground, when they are taken up.

A STUDY of the methods by which three times the average yield of corn was made showed that in all there was an unusual amount of work expended in preparing the seed bed. Don't plant before the ground is thoroughly warm. By gaining a week in the time of planting you are apt to lose two weeks in the time of harvesting and twenty per cent of the crop. Drilling produces the larger yield and profit, except on very foul ground. If you have purchased such grounds you will be excused for planting in hills until you can cleanse the land. There cannot be a good crop without a good stand; and there cannot be a good stand without good seed—seed that will do more than germinate, that will produce inherently vigorous plants as well. Corn may do well on hilly land (though the crop must be uneven) but nearly always the land will lose heavily by the denuding action of rain—often so heavily as to make grass or small grain a more profitable crop. Corn should be cut for the silo just as the kernels have become glazed; and no variety should be planted which cannot reach this condition before the first killing frosts.

It is claimed that the application of salt will free land from the white grub, but it must be put on in large quantities, say one and a half tons per acre. A crop of buckwheat will certainly rid land of the wire-worm, and perhaps of the white grub. Starvation is also suggested as a remedy; collect and burn, as far as practicable, all the vegetable material upon which the larvæ could feed. If the ground has been cultivated for vegetables, gather all the stalks, stems, vines etc., together with the roots, in piles, and burn them. If the land be in grass, after feeding as closely as possible, plow thoroughly, and follow during the autumn with such additional plowings and harrowings as shall best tend to destroy all vegetable life. At this time, gas-lime, if procurable, should be applied. Repeat these operations in the following spring, and allow the land to lie fallow for a year. Compliance with these directions would not only starve out the white grub, but also whatever wire-worms, cut-worms, and other underground larvæ that might be present. Strawberries which are very liable to attack by the white grub, have been protected by burying tobacco stems in their beds, also by placing a quantity of ashes, either leached or unleached, upon the ground before setting the plants. But the best remedy is to water the plants with an infusion of burdock leaves; it does not harm the plants but it makes them so offensive to the white grub that he will not touch them. To make the infusion take green burdock leaves and stalks, run them through a hay-cutter, put them in a large kettle or tub, and mash them with an old axe or maul, adding water and pounding them to a pulp. Let it stand over night and apply the decoction strong. This is also an effective remedy for the onion maggot. To prevent the destruction of the foliage of trees by the May beetle, dust them thoroughly with air-slaked lime, applying it in the morning, while they are damp with dew. Or sheets may be spread under a tree early in the morning, and the tree shaken. The beetles will not attempt to fly at that hour, and large quantities of them may be caught, drowned and fed to swine. In the evening the beetles are attracted by a bright light, and may thus be lured to destruction. If a lantern be placed above a vessel of water upon which two or three tablespoonfuls of coal oil have been poured, many of the beetles drawn to the light and striking against it will be thrown into the water and drowned. Many other noxious insects will at the same time be destroyed.