

heads to blanch them. The heads should be cut for use when the "curd" is very compact or hard, as they open and separate into branches. Best results will be obtained by planting either very early or very late in order to avoid the hot midsummer season when heads are being formed.

#### Setting Out Strawberry Plants

When ready to set out plants, stretch a line tight by using a stake at each end of your patch, setting the plants from fifteen to eighteen inches apart in the row and having the rows from two to three and one-half feet distant. If for garden culture, set the plants in rows two feet apart. By making every third row one foot wider, it insures more room to work and pick berries. For field culture, plants should be set from three to four feet apart, by one to two feet apart in the row. There are many systems of growing plants, but we would recommend the hedge row. In setting plants, a good way is to use a spade, thrusting it into the ground at an angle of about forty-five degrees, raise the handle to an upright position and insert plant by first spreading the roots in the hole made by the spade, being very careful to have the crown of the plant just at the surface of the ground and drawing the fresh dirt up either with the spade or with the hand, covering the roots, when they should be either pressed very firmly or stepped on with the foot, using one's whole weight. Care must be taken not to damage the crown. Then draw some loose soil again and put close to the plant, where you have just tramped the soil down. This will prevent the moisture from evaporating. The crown of a properly set plant will be just even with the surface of the ground after being firmed in, and by pulling one of the leaves it will bear instead of pulling the plant out of the ground.—B. T. H.

#### Growing Cucumber Pickles

Cucumbers succeed best planted in a warm, light soil, properly enriched. The pickling varieties should be planted about June 1. Be very careful in selecting seed, for pickle factories take nothing over 4 inch, long, except at lower rates.

The soil should be well plowed and pulverized thoroughly by harrowing before planting. At a distance of about 4 ft. make furrows 4 in. deep and about every 4 ft. in the furrow place a shovelful of fine manure, draw the soil over it and plant the seed. Plant from 15 to 20 seeds in each hill, and thin to about four good plants when they get well started and danger from insects is about over.

They can be cultivated one way within a few inches of the hill. They should be cultivated until there is danger of breaking off vines and should be hoed between hills in the row and the hills carefully weeded when the sun is not shining too hot.

They must be picked or cut regularly and carefully. They require picking often to get them of even size.—E. L. B.

"If you open your mouth," hissed the burglar, "you are a dead man."

"Huh!" rejoined the ex-candidate as he blinked at the dark lantern, "I have been a dead one ever since the election."

"What can we do to improve the present method of dancing?" thundered the parson. "Dancing is merely hugging set to music."

"We might cut out the music," softly suggested a bad young man in the rear of the auditorium.

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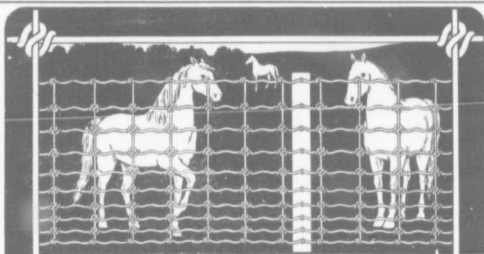
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