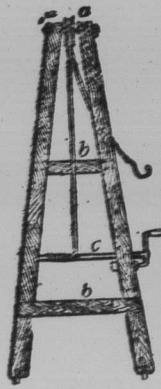


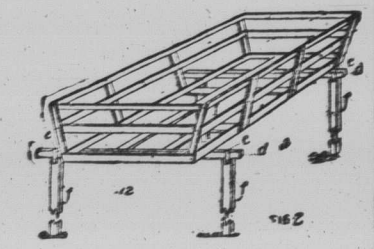
# AGRICULTURAL

## Device for Removing Racks and Wagon Beds.

The accompanying illustrations represent a contrivance by which heavy racks and wagon beds can be taken off and on without much difficulty.



In Fig 1 the uprights, *a a*, are 4x4 timbers. The crosspieces, *b b*, are one-inch boards. The crank, *c*, is from an old St. Paul self-binder. The timbers at the top are secured by a 12-inch bolt, which also bears a pulley. At the bottom the uprights are 2 1/2 feet apart. The rope may be of any convenient size, and the hook should have an opening of 2 1/2 inches. Drive an old bolt into the lower end of each upright, so that the frame will stand square. Now set four posts, *f* (Fig 2), 12 feet apart each way, nail strips of boards, *e*, on each side at the top, to keep the crosspieces in place. When you want to unload or load the rack, drive or back in between the posts. Block the hind wheels, set the pulley frame directly behind the wagon, fasten the hook to the hind crosspiece of the rack, and with the crank hoist it high enough so that the crosspiece, *d*, can be put in place. Do the same with the front end, and you will have your rack high and dry. In loading hoist only high enough



to pull out the crosspiece, then let the rack down on the wagon only one end at a time. The posts must be of sufficient height to permit of the wagon with the rack on being driven underneath the crosspieces. The rack should be kept under shed or shelter, and will then be in service for several seasons' usefulness. Any one handy with tools can easily construct such a device, the use of which will soon save enough time and hard work to pay for itself.

## Thinning Fruit.

Mrs. S. D. Willard says that judicious pruning and thorough thinning of fruit are each important factors in fruit growing and neither can be ignored except at an incalculable loss in the future of the orchard. Beginning with the second year from planting, the young orchard should be looked over with care annually, and the previous year's growth cut in, removing from one-quarter to one-half of such growth thus forming a strong, compact head and the development of the fruit spurs near the body of the tree, where the future crop may be carried with safety against violent storms, and lessening the liability of the limbs being broken and split to pieces. Nor can any lack of care at an early period of growth touching this question be met and overcome in after years, when the saw must be substituted for the knife in an effort to make good lost opportunities. Orchards there are where this principle has been practiced, with heads as symmetrical and round as the most beautifully formed horse chestnut you ever saw. The work should be carefully followed any time after the tree becomes dormant, in the autumn and through the winter, when the wood is not filled with frost.

A subject of no less importance, oftentimes involving the health and even vitality of the tree itself, is the proper thinning of the fruit. The average quality rarely sells at anything over average prices, while the large, well-developed specimens only bring the high prices that afford the largest profit, and such fruit is not found in trees over-loaded beyond their power to properly mature. Very much has been said and written on the subject in the past, and yet how few the number of fruit growers who have the nerve or inclination to thin their fruit. This neglect may be in a measure excusable on the apple, but not so with the plum.

In every department of nature the effort at production so taxes vital forces as to make it a weakening process, and in none of our fruits is this more manifest than in the plum, which is often so depleted from a single year's overproduction as to never recover from the injury inflicted. It is not the production of the fruit itself, but the draft upon the energies of the plant to perfect the pit, that reduces the vital powers, and often leads to premature death. Hence we say, after the dropping of the fruit which usually follows the setting of a large crop, in the month of June, the wise planter will find it a great advantage to have removed a portion of that remaining, and, as a result, the marketable crop increased, quality greatly improved, and the trees, with their vigor unimpaired, fitted at once to begin the storing up of necessary material for another crop. A lack of a little common sense on the part of many a man has destroyed or rendered worthless more plum trees than the work of all insects and diseases combined.

So closely connected with the question of thinning is the time of picking that the two should be considered together. Therefore, we say, at the earliest moment practicable after fully grown and colored, while

yet hard, pick and dispose of, even though a week later might show a material advancement in price. At this stage of ripeness they meet the requirements of the purchaser, will stand up well for distant shipments, and relief is at once afforded to the overburdened tree. Prices are quite apt to advance as the season progresses, and the temptation to allow the fruit to stand for another week or two is hard to resist, but it is often a fatal mistake.

One of my neighbors, with a crop unthinned and double in quantity what the trees should have carried, had this question to meet a few years since. He allowed them to stand until finally they were picked off the ground, and while he received double price it was at a fearful expense. A severe winter followed, the recuperative power had all been expended on the crop, and the trees—many of them were dead the following spring, while the others have never regained their former vigor. An object lesson worth remembering. He says he will never again be so foolish.

The fruit should be carefully picked in baskets selected for that purpose, carted to the packing house, and if the weather be hot, be allowed to stand until cool, so that when packed for shipment no heat can be found in it; the fruit carefully sorted, packed and marketed all that is inferior as No. 2.

The best results are often attained by growing a variety of fruits, hence we should advise, if practicable, in connection with plums, grow cherries and more or less of small fruits, but in any event plant more than a single variety of whatever you may plant and so alternate varieties that you may be sure of cross fertilization or perfect pollination of the bloom. Our highest authorities to-day urge it as one of the most important measures to be considered.

Thorough and careful cultivation is a subject of such importance as to deserve serious consideration before closing this already too lengthy paper.

Plums cannot be grown profitably in grass, nor do we believe weeds should be permitted to devour the elements of fertility that have been so wisely and liberally bestowed upon our orchards, but please do not forget that thorough cultivation does not by any means imply the deep, two-horse ploughing which at times is given the apple and pear. Unlike those fruits, our plum is a surface-rooting tree and may be seriously injured by deep annual ploughing. The soil, however, should be kept cultivated in as shallow a manner as possible during the process of fruit making, so as to destroy weeds and aid in rendering available every particle of plant food for the growing crop, and where the plum tree thrives we believe that an observance of the principles we advocate will best conserve the interest of the planter.

## FRANCIS JOSEPH'S FOOT-WASHING.

The Curious Ceremony of Holy Week at Vienna.

On Holy Thursday, at Vienna, the Emperor Francis Joseph performed the annual ceremony of washing the feet of twelve old beggars. The ceremony took place in the Hall of Ceremonies in the imperial palace. On a platform raised slightly above the floor was a long table with twelve covers, a plate, knife, wooden spoon, folded napkin for each, with spoons of bread, a pewter mug, and a little blue pitcher filled with water. At 10 o'clock twelve old men, the youngest 89 and the oldest 96, entered the hall and were supported, each by two relatives, to the platform, which they mounted with difficulty, and were placed in their seats, their relatives, most of them women, standing behind them. Then entered twenty knights of the Teutonic Order, headed by their master, Archduke Eugene, dressed in white with a long black cross on the breast of their doublets and another on the back of their long white cloaks. They marched around the hall, and then, forming a line on either side, made way for the ministers, with Count Kainaky at the head, and the Emperor's staff. They were followed by the Primate of Austria, Cardinal Gruscha, with priests and acolytes bearing candles and burning incense.

THEN CAME THE EMPEROR

dressed in the white uniform of an Austrian General and wearing the order of the Golden Fleece. He advanced to the table and addressed a few words to the old men. At a signal from the master of ceremonies twelve guardsmen stepped forward, each bearing on a tray the first course of a sumptuous repast: the Emperor now took off his helmet, gave it to an officer, and, passing down the line, arranged the dishes before each guest. Twelve Archdukes then approached and removed the Barmitide banquet from the guests' eyes, handing the dishes to the guards. This was repeated for three courses, and with the last the plates, knives, and other objects on the table were taken off. They were all packed later, with the food in wooden boxes, and sent to the homes of the old men. The table was then taken away, and the "washing of feet" began. A priest approached with a towel and a golden basin of water; their suppers were taken from the old men's feet, and the Emperor, on his knees, beginning with the oldest, moistened his feet with water and dried them with the towel. Without rising still on his knees, he passed on to the next one, and so on to the end of the row. When he had finished he rose and placed around each man's neck a chain, attached to which was a small white bag containing thirty pieces of silver.

That ended the ceremony: the Emperor and his suite withdrew, and the old men were taken home by their friends.

## Applied Instruction.

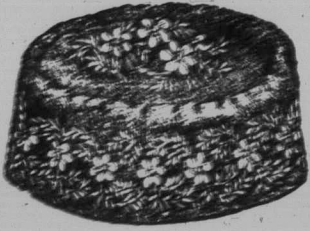
I notice that the insurgents in Cuba have—  
The what, Johnny?  
The insurgents.  
You mean the insurgents, don't you?  
Yes; but you have often told me not to say gentle.

## A Peculiarity.

Money talks, said the confident man. Yes, replied the melancholy citizen. But when it's conversing with a poor relation it usually takes in a whisper.

## Smoking Cap.

The model smoking cap is black lady's cloth embroidered with yellow Roman



SMOKING CAP. The lining is black silk, and the head is slightly stiffened. The full size detail of the embroidery for the crown shows all



DETAIL OF EMBROIDERY FOR SMOKING CAP.

## THE LIMEKILN CLUB.

"My friend," said Brother Gardner as he bounded the gravel with one hand and unbuttoned his coat and vest with the other, "I hev bin given to understand dat certain members of dis club an' enthusiastic fur reform. Dey want, as I am told, reform in social customs, in pollytacks, in religion and other things. Dey want dis club to take de reformin' business in hand an' keep pushin' till de hull world an' made better. I hev a list of de would-be reformers among our members an' it an headed by de name of Givendiam Jones. It an said dat Brudder Jones an' so anxious to see de world made better dat he can't sleep nights.

"Two weeks ago to-day along in de afternoon I set in my back doab an' saw a pesson keenly surveyin' my trunk patch ober de back fence. Dat pesson was Givendiam Jones. He looked and peered an' squinted till he had located de exact spot on which six big squashes was growin' an' den he vanished from sight. At 9 o'clock dat savenn' I went out an' set down in de middle of den squashes. I had a club in my hand. I wasn't waitin' fur cats, but fur Brudder Jones. At 9:30 de ole woman blowed out de candle and ten minutes later auintin' dropped ober de back fence an' cum creakin' up to den squashes. I was ready.

"Dat auintin' was a pesson. 'Bort de time he had hand on de niggest squash I riz up an' bring dat club down on his cocker. He dragged to his knees, rolled ober, scrambled up agin, an' I got in two mo' whacks befo' he reached de fence. I did not ax de name, an' he didn't hand me no keerd. When dat club cum' down I knowed by de feel of things dat it had lighted on Brudder Jones. He was around nex' day wid his head tied up and disamin dat he run agin' a stone wall in de dark.

"Some fo' weeks ago my ole woman went to bed one night an' left de washin' out on de line. When she got up in de mornin' my three shirts an' two pairs o' socks had disappeared. I looked fur tracks an' found 'em. Den tracks led mighty close to de back doab of Brudder Snugg Watkins cabin. Brudder Watkins an' No. 2 on de list of would-be reformers. I went home an' didn't say nuffin' till Sunday morn'. Den I called Brudder Watkins out into de alley an' looked him o'er fur one o' my shirts. He had one on to go to

church in. He explained to me dat it was a shirt which blowed ober into his yard one night last winter, but his knees was knockin' together as he talked. Sum o' yo' may dereckle dat a story was floatin' around 'bout three weeks ago to de effect

dat Brudder Watkins had his hit by a house. He was hit, but not by a house. I thought off an' hit him on de chin wid my right, an' while he slept I took de shirt off his body an' walked away.

"De third name on de list an' dat of Traudful Johnson. I had occasion to ax him a few questions one mornin' last summer. When I got up at sunrise an' went out to my outhouse, I found two chickens namin'. On a nail by de doab was a piece of ole blue shirt, an' when I put it to my nose I took a walk ober to his cabin an' found de heads of two chickens at de back doab an' feathers in de washin'. I went in an' axed Brudder Johnson an' lef'n questions, which he answered wid de utmost plainness, but I disatisfied my chickens under de bed just de same. Der was a report around aint day dat Brudder Johnson had been picked up by a cyclone an' hurriced into de top of a tree 200 feet high, but it

was a mistake. I jest picked him up an' slammid him around fur awhile an' den I let him free a wander. I am told dat he shed tears last night when talkin' wid sum of de members of dis club about Amianan an' Captain Kidd.

"De fo' name on de list an' dat of Samuel Kim. Samuel has offered to do some of de hard work in reformin' his fellermen an' has a resolution all ready to introduce at de proper time. Let's see. It an' about six weeks ago, so high as I kin remekind, when I got up at midnight an' went to de back doab to see if de moonlight was too strong fur my own comfort. I was just in time to find Brudder Kim tuckin' a little of soft soap outer the woodshed. When I axed him, he claimed dat he was walkin' in his sleep. Mebbe he was, but he didn't walk dat way no mo' dat night. When he walked around de cabin an' out of de gate an' up de street, he was wide awake an' tryin' to dodge my right but. He didn't go to work fur de next three days, an' I believe he claimed dat he wrenched his back tryin' to lift a street kyar back on de track.

"My friend, I hev but a few words to say on de matter of reform. First, de world an' good 'nuff as it an'. Second, de pesson who gits de idee of reform in his head neither induces itself. Thirdly, if reform could be accomplished, it would surely have de best' ober an' bring another set of morals on top. Lastly, dis Limekiln Club could not conveniently demand reform. I am not exactly impudent myself. Within de last six months I hev picked up an ax in de alley without injurin' fur de owner, worked off a dozen summered neckles on de street kyar countin' out, put a stone in de paper kyar to increase de weight an' made my whitewash mighty thin on 75-cent job. We will let de subjick drag right yere an' go hum."

## FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

The total amount of gold in circulation at the present time is estimated at about \$1,470,000,000, weighting altogether \$73 tons. The newest puncture proof band for use on cycles is made of strips of white canvas interwoven between the air tube and the outer cover.

Medical students in China study copper models of man which are pierced with 149 holes, which show the location of an equal number of pulses.

The weight of the French cavalry saddle will be reduced nearly three pounds by the substitution of aluminum for steel in portions of the tree and stirrups.

The Belgian government has decided to hold an international exhibition on a large scale at Brussels in 1897, in spite of the fact that the Paris exhibition will follow only three years afterwards.

Letters now communicate with persons afloat by means of the telephone. The microphone is placed near the eye, and a slight turning of the head brings the mouth close to it.

One of the fireplaces that is to be put in Corcoran Vanderbilt's new house in Newport will be made of terra cotta taken from the ruins of an old Italian villa at Pompeii.

The sugar contract for some work ever awarded was probably that reported to have been made for the stone for the Hudson river bridge. The sum named is about \$4,000,000.

A curious announcement relat of the epoch of Peter the Great has been presented to the Petrovsk museum at Astrakhan. This is a metal token or "receipt" granting the bearer permission to wear a mustache and beard.

Annie Gorman, a 2-year-old Chicago girl, fell nearly feet recently and in two minutes after was at supper and drunk as before. She had a good cry, as she was badly scared, but the doctors say she is absolutely unharmed.

Thirty years ago Mr. Joseph Galloway was a working preacher in Birmingham. One day later he will have to take his nose and jawbone out, but not. And even then doesn't destroy had as many of the roots of weeds as he would have done a week before with the rake. Neglecting the weeds is something an' empty cannot afford.

# HEALTH.

## Sneezing.

Sneezing is a reflex act caused by an irritation of some portion of the large nerve supplying sensation to the face. Excessive sneezing may be the result of some irritant, usually of vegetable origin, coming in contact with the mucous membrane lining of the nose, or it may be associated with some general disorder.

Whooping cough and asthma are often accompanied by violent fits of sneezing. Persons of a "gummy" tendency are often afflicted with frequent sneezing, and the same is true of persons who possess a somewhat hysterical or exceedingly nervous temperament.

A sneeze and a cough exert much the same effect over different portions of the respiratory tract. In sneezing an effort is made to get rid of some substance irritating the mucous membrane of the nose; in coughing the same thing is attempted for the throat.

Sneezing in some instances produced by looking at a strong light or vivid color. Inflammation may be increased, if not actually produced, by excessive sneezing, as well as by violent coughing. In this way either of these acts may be harmful.

Sneezing is often indicative of some "infectious" condition of the mucous membrane, and if much indulged in, it tends to make this condition worse by congesting the mucous membrane of the nose and pharynx, and in severe prostrations that of the eyes and ears.

The inhalation of dust or of irritating vapors tends to "stop up the head" chiefly because sneezing is thereby induced.

We often hear it said, when one sneezes, "You are taking cold"—an expression in which there may be some truth; for a chilling of the body drives the blood away from the surface, and causes it to flow unduly to any part of the body already weakened by inflammation. That point in many cases is the mucous membrane of the nose. Some of the most severe colds, however, are accompanied by no sneezing.

It is not to be wondered at that the practice of "taking snuff" is becoming obsolete. It is no more reasonable to employ measures to induce sneezing than it would be to inhale the fumes of sulphur, or other irritating vapors, to induce a sneeze.

Pressure upon the upper lip or above the bridge of the nose will usually cut short even a severe fit of sneezing. This failing, a mustard plaster applied to the back of the neck or the administration of an emetic will be found useful.

## Hints for the Stout.

One of the best exercises and most effective fat-reducers that can be imagined, is the drying oneself with a coarse towel after a cold bath or a cold sponge. If those parts of the body where adipose tissue is apt to be deposited in excess are vigorously rubbed the muscles regain their tenacity, the fat between and over them is soon absorbed and the general health is greatly improved.

Each people have this done about half as well as they can do themselves. The self-denial of the patient is put to the severest test in the restoration of drinking liquid. The less fat people drink the better chance they will have of diminishing their excess of fat. Those who take two cups of tea should only take one, and so on, and on no account cut off the supply of liquor entirely. In fact, as we have before said, very hot water (sipped) often accomplishes much in reducing adipose deposit. Do not eat the same article of food too often. The last important factor in any scheme of dieting, whether for invalids or others.

## Eat Slowly.

Children should be trained to eat slowly, no matter how hungry or what important business is pressing. Much safer a little food well ground than a hearty meal "swallows in haste. Cold food is even more difficult to digest than hot, if taken too rapidly. — Dr. Dean's own words:—

"There are more to be given than there are able to digest. Give him always of the prime. And that little at a time."

Another wise note is this given—"Don't think, masticate, masticate, and swallow." A leading doctor once said he never knew a case in which any man took too little food when he had plenty before him; but he knew many who owed their ill-health mainly to eating too much. If the food wanted could be saved, there would be no one without "enough and to spare."

## Too Hearty Breakfast.

The man or woman who eats for breakfast broiled steak, with, perhaps, bacon, followed by two soft-boiled eggs and a quantity of cream fruit, thus followed up by hot bread and coffee, cannot expect to stand erect at 45 and say: "I am in the prime of life."

## Keep Ahead of the Weeds.

There is only one economical way to fight weeds—that is to keep ahead of them. When they are just breaking through the ground they can be destroyed with less labor than at any other time. That is the time to take them in hand. A little later and the work will be doubled. Too many overlook this fact. In many towns five per cent. of it is allowed on an acre just before a certain date, and men unable to pay their tax and have that five per cent. A much larger per cent. of it is secured by the man who takes the weeds in season. One can go over a garden with an iron rake when the weeds are just breaking ground, and in an hour's time accomplish wonders. A week later he will have to take his nose and jawbone out, but not. And even then doesn't destroy had as many of the roots of weeds as he would have done a week before with the rake. Neglecting the weeds is something an' empty cannot afford.