As regards soils, bear in mind that peaty or mucky and damp, cold and spongy ones are wholly unfit for fruit orchards of any kind. Apples and pears as a rule thrive best on a dry, deep, substantial soil, between a sandy and a clayey loam, and possessing among its inorganic parts a considerable portion of lime. It is the belief of many farmers that apples grown on clayey soils possess better keeping qualities than those grown on light soils. The most enduring peach orchards are found on dry, sandy loams. Peach trees grown on loose, light sands, with the occasional dressings of good compost, fruit well but do not live long. Generally speaking the plum delights in a rather orchard must possess for most successful results the inorganic substances, such as lime and potash, and a goodly proportion of vegetable mold.

As it is imperative that the soil be deep and in good tilth, the ground designated for an orchard is best plowed the previous season, and again before the trees are set. The season of planting, in reality, may extend any time after the fall of the leaf by frost in autumn, until its reappearance in the spring, provided the ground is not frozen. Spring and fall are, however, the usual seasons, spring being generally conceded to be the best time for setting out the stone fruits.

A selection of varieties should be in-fluenced by the wants and circumstances

of the grower. Here again the experience and advice of cultivators in the same locality will be of invaluable assistance. Large orchards, for profit, should be made up of well proved varieties that have been tested in the same locality and soil. Whatever the vale same scale as the soldiers, low, stout trees are to be preferred to tall slender ones. Especially and let posterity judge us. in elevated and exposed positions are low trees the best.

The usual arrangement of orchard trees is in the square form, in rows the same distance apart and in equal distance between each other. This is the simplest plan and is most employed in small orchards. An operation of setting which is somewhat complicated, In this the trees of one row are opposite the spaces in the next. In apple orchards thirty feet from tree to tree in all directions is the usual rule. Standpears require about twenty-five feet. Peach trees are preferable at one year old only from the bud and should be set at a distance of say fifteen feet. Standard cherries may be transplanted at one year from the bud and should not be over two years. About twelve feet apart is the distance usually observed for this fruit. Plum trees for orehard standards should be about two years old from the graft, with stems say three feet high; they are usually planted the same distance as peaches. Quinces are advised to be at least two years old, and they may be three from the layer or bud; set them twelve feet

As trees invariably lose some of their roots when taken up from the nursery, it is necessary to cut back the branches at the time of planting, that a proper balance shall exist between the stem and the roots of the tree. The roots ought also to be relieved of all bruised points. The ground having been previ-ously prepared by plowing or trenching, holes should be dug deep and wide enough to admit the roots, which when carefully spread out in natural positions may be filled in with fine earth gently trodden down with the foot, more earth filled in, more tramping down of earth and so on until the excavation is filled. When the trees are large and in exposed positions it is well to fasten them with a stake or two, otherwise this precaution is unnecessary. Cultivators differ in their opinions about the necessity for mulching newly set trees; the practice is nevertheless accompanied with excellent results; it prevents the hoist-ure of the ground from evaporating and maintains a uniformity of heat and moisture conducive to the formation of new roots.—New York World.

Recipes.

BOSTON BROWN BREAD .- Two curfuls Indian meal, (even); one cupful rye meal; one cupful flour; one (small) quart of sweet milk; pinch of sait; one-half cupful molasses; two teaspoonfuls cream-tarter; one teaspoonful (even) of soda dissolved in water; steam four hours, and water must boil constantly all the time; put in oven and heat for

VIRGINIA BISCUIT .- One quart flour, one-half teaspoonful salt, one-quarter pound butter; mix the flour and butter with the hand together, and moisten with water; roll it out very thin three times, and nest with the rolling-pin each time; roll as thin as a sheet of paper; cut with a saucer and bake in sheets. These are particularly nice for

Paris has 602 painters in oil, 193 min-iatu e painters, 507 fan painters and 107

TIMELY TOPICS.

It is computed that the sum total of the cost of the last war between Germany and France was \$2,500,000,000. A French economist does not share the opinion expressed in some quarters that Germany did not profit much by the war. After pointing to many things which the indemnity has enabled Germany to accomplish he says that there is a fund of \$300,000,000 unaccounted for, which, he presumes has gone into the famous way reserve fund. the famous war reserve fund.

The happiest town in the world is Haltem, near Munster, Prussia. Owing to the value acquired by the town prop-erty, the citizens are not only able to defray the whole communal expenditure out of the annual returns, but are able to distribute a large surplus each year among the citizens. Recently this year's surplus, amounting to 14,000 marks, was thus divided among the inhabitants of this enviable parish. As this good fortune, however, becomes known, there must be serious danger of the happy little town becoming overpopu-

An item in the statistical returns of the United States dead letter office for the past year affords a singular commentary on the epistolary intelligence of the country. From the 30,000 post-offices distributed throughout the country, no less than 13,000 dead letters were received at the postoffice department each day. Another singular thing is, that the largest proportion of these let-ters come from New England, and the next largest from the West. In these letters there were found during the past year \$35,000 in money and \$1,500,000 in drafts, and ninety-five per cent. of the money and ninety-seven per cent. of the drafts were returned salely to their

A new invention for telegraphing from railway trains while in motion to stations and to other moving trains, is rewell but do not live long. Generally speaking the plum delights in a rather stiff clayey loam, though some sorts, as the Mirabelle, succeed well on light soils. The cherry thrives best on a light, dry, warm soil. In orchards where apples, pears, peaches, plums, etc., are planted promiscuously, what is commonly termed a sandy loam with a sandy clay subsoil is best. On such a soil all the hardy fruits will thrive, other conditions being favorable. Under all circumstances the soil of an orchard must possess for most successstart, and afterward holding almost its loneliness away from friends and constant communication with it. The kome, delights to receive, and on a sep-

> placed on oaths. At the beginning of the struggle 757 officers of the Bolivian army, all above the grade of sub-lieutenant, swore the following fright-ful oath, with a request that posterity would take note of it: We, who carry a sword at our girdle, which our father-land has confided to us to defend it and preserve intact its honor, swear a thousand times over not to sheathe that sword before avenging the outrage which Chili has committed on Bolivia. And to fulfill these oaths we are prepared for every sacrifice, beginning by the renouncement of salaries, and subjecting ourselves to camp rations on the same scale as the soldiers. Thus be it,

> > The New York Custom House,

The work done in the New York cus tom house is described in an interesting manner by a reporter as follows: There are few better indications of the renewed activity in business than can be seen at the cashier's office in the custom house, but which gives more space for light in Wall street. In a small room on the and air, is what is called the quincunx. main floor of the building, and occupying the southwest corner of it, the cashier, with a force of fifteen clerks. receives all the money for duties levied by the government on imports, excepting the small amount assessed on passengers' baggage, which is collected on the wharf. Some idea of the amount of business done in this office may be gained when it is stated that the money received in a single day has several times lately amounted to over \$1,600,-000, and the number of entries made has exceeded 1,000. The manner in which this large amount of money is handled is as follows:

The merchant's or broker's clerk, after first making out his entry in the rotunda of the building, where the amount of duty is calculated on the entry by the entry clerks, takes his place in the line before one of the receiving clerks' desks, and deposits the amount of the entry in asmall box, and with it a ticket on which he has entered the merchant's name, with the date, and the sum inclosed, whether in gold, silver notes or certificates. Gutta-percha boxes are used to prevent unnecessary noise from the clinking of the coin. The receiving clerk takes the box of money, and hands it to a teller to count, while the clerk enters the amount from the entry in a blotter. The teller does not look at the cash ticket until he has counted the money and marked it on the back of the ticket. He then turns it over, and if the amount is correct, checks it, and returns it to the receiving clerk, who then signs a permit for the delivery of the goods. The entries then go to the bookkeepers, who enter the amount of each on 'sheets," and at the close of the day, the

money is counted and compared with this record of the bookkeepers. So carefully is this system carried out, that there is rarely a variation of a cent between the money and the ac-counts, and the office has thereby gained the reputation of being more exact than any other similar institution in the country which handles such an amount of money coming in so many different payments, from \$5 to \$50,000. Should any discrepancy occur, the clerks carefully compare both sides of the tickets, and then compare the tickets with the clerk's blotter; and then the blotter is checked off with the bookkeeper's sheets. By some of these methods the error is certain to be discovered. As account is kept of each kind of money separately, the tellers can see at a glance if a mistake is made in the gold, silver certificates, or notes, When the coin has been counted and put into small canvas bags, it is placed

in boxes holding \$20 000 in gold. These boxes are put in a hand-cart outside the building, and wheeled to the sub-treasury, which gives a receipt to the custom house for each deposit. Nearly

also armed men in the cashier's office. The eashter, James Hoffman, who has filled the position for thirty years, is highly respected for his long-tried highly respected ability and careful consideration of the public convenience. The clerks and tellers are also men of efficiency, and the responsibility of the office makes their position more permanent than that of the average custom house officer. The tellers acquire great skill in detecting counterfeits as well as in rapid counting. Some of the ways of counterfeiting which come under their notice are curious. The Chinese in San Francisco are expert enough to split a \$10 gold piece, cut out the center, fill it with base metal, and join it together so nicely that only an expert could detect the fraud. The patient Chinaman also finds it profitable to "sweat" gold by shaking the coin in a bag and gathering the gold dust which accumulates from the abrasion of the metal. Another device is to file gold coin across the edge, thus destroying the raised milling. All the silver and nickel coins are counterfeited, from the three-cent piece to the legal-tender dollar. They are first stamped from base metal and then plated with silver. Even this the counterfeiters do not buy, but obtain by immersing silver coin in acid. which removes from the coin enough silver for the counterfeiter's use, while the "sweated" silver can still be passed at par.

The cashier's office performs only a small portion of the work of the custom house in all its branches, but as it is one of the main resources of the public purse, it is perhaps the most interesting. As one passes along the dingy corridor, he catches sight of the three lines of men cramped and crooked around in the little room, boys and gray-haired men, with their little gutta-percha boxes full of gold ready to be emptied into the capacious pockets of Uncle

After Many Days,

The Watertown (N. Y.) Despatch relates the following singular story of a long lost letter: In the spring of 1862 a citizen of Watertown embarked for Alexandria, Va., to become the pub-lisher of a daily newspaper of that city. Leaving a young wife and little daughconstant communication with it. The details of the invention are still the inventor's secret.

There seems to be but little prospect of an early termination of the South American war, if any value is to be oblivious to the fact that such a letter had been sent. To his surprise and utter astonishment, on Saturday last, he took from the postoffice in this city (Water town), a letter bearing postmark 1862; a penny stamp covering the three-cent stamp put on at the time of mailing, and the envelope giving evidence that it had been received at Washington, D. C., eighteen years ago. A new superscription—the word "city," freshly written—was all the ciue afforded to the history of this missive of affection long deferred. The presumption, however, is that some member of the army from Watertown was entrusted at Washington with the delivery of the letter, and, for some reason, he neglected so to do, and while looking over his old papers, discovered it and delivered it to the Watertown

Trained to Dance.

In foreign countries there are many kinds of schools with which we in this ecuntry are unacquainted. In Italy, for example, there are schools in which boys and girls are trained, from early childhood, as dancers for the stage. These are said to be the hardest and severest schools in the world.

The children begin to prepare for entrance into them at the age of six years At eight years a large number apply for admittance, and submit to a com-petitive trial of their skill. Out of two or three hundred applicants, the royal academy of Italy selects every year twe've boys and forty-four girls for ad-

The training in this school lasts eight years, during which the pupils receive small salaries from the government. They are kept practicing from seven in the morning until noon, and they are required to perform many painful and extremely difficult exercises.

The training is so severe that the legs of the pupils are apt to grow large and clumsy. Some of them run to leg in the most extraordinary manner, so that they are spoiled for the stage. Occasionally, during their eight years' schooling, they are required to perform in the public theater. After all this expensive and laborious and worse than useless training, a really beautiful dancer, like Taglione, is very rarely produced .-Youth's Companion.

Light, Not Noise.

One of the members of the bar in Saratoga, who thoroughly enjoys a good joke, relates the following, and applies the moral to himself: Not long since, he was counsel in a case before Judge Pratt, referee, and during the progress of the trial became a little bit noisy, as he sometimes does, when the judge looked up and said to him: "Mr. —, did you ever hear of the man who was lost in the woods during a thunder-storm?" On being answered in the negative, the judge continued: "A man, in attempting to pass through a piece of woods, lost his way, and while he was in that predicament a fearful thunder-storm came up. The woods grew awfully dark. The roaring of the wind and the crashing of the thunder was terrific. The man was frightened and started to pray, but not being used to that business, said: 'Oh.
Lord, give us a little more light, and a
little less noise!' "I don't mean you,
Mr. —," added the judge, but the audience supposed all the time the judge did mean him, and now that he thinks of it himself he inclines to that opinion

That there is something still wanting in the conditions of the German army service to make it tolerable to many of the rank and file, is evident from the and officers committed suicide during

a ton of coin has to be transferred daily in this manner. An officer, fully armed, accompanies the porter, and there are —Syracuse Sunday Times.

Wild Sugar Cane in Nevada.

The Winnemuces (Nev.) Silver State says: Waiter Schmidt writes as follows from the Desert salt works, at White Pine, about Pinte sugar cane: There is any quantity of wild sugar cane growing at the sink of the Humboldt, on the flat between the Desert sait works and the railroad, where there is plenty of water There is a spring on this flat near which the cane grows every year. In the fall of the year the juice appears as a perfectly thick liquid under the leaves. This liquid crystalizes in a short time, and the sugar is very white. I have collected as much as a cupful at a time, boiled it, skimmed it, an t used it instead of molas:es.

In Behring Island the Swedish Arctic explorers can'm to have discovered the future dairy farm of the remote East, and say that anglers who have used up the European rivers may there find ex-cellent sport. The rivers abound in trout and salmon too unaccustomed to human enemies to be afraid of them.

The Rome Sentinel thinks "gum came in use in the mucil-age. But stop a moment to consider. Was this before the Laplander used his moose sledge?— Yonkers Statesman.

A New York man has invented paste-board window blinds which make a cow shed look like an Italian villa.— Detroit Free Fress.

Little Annie is the daughter of one of our most prominent citizens. Yesterday she told us, in her way, what a good medicine Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup was, as it had cured her of a very severe cold.

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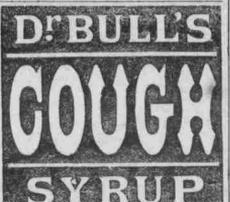
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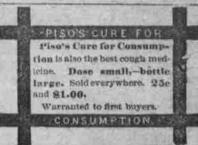
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