Paeceseseseseses Water For a Crop of Corn.

About 2500 tous of water per acre is the estimate for a crop of corn. Such a weight of water would crush a strong building, and yet more than that quantity falls upon an acre in the course of a year. It is not so difficult to obtain the water as to prevent its loss. It is known that if a tub of water is covered less evaporation occurs. If the land is cultivated frequently the loose dirt on the surface prevents evaporation, and the water is retained in the soil for the use of the plants.

Level Cultivation For Hoed Crops.

Level cultivation for boed crops is winning new advocates every year, especially in corn crop, when grown on well drained land. Level cultivation has many things to recommend it It enables you to destroy the weeds close to the plants with greater facility and with less labor. It makes gathering the crop much easier and less strain and jar on the machinery. The greatest advantage of all is leaving the land so level for the next plowing. as it is a most disagreeable task to left in ridges.

The hilling process will no doubt still be followed on land that is not properly drained, as in that case a heavy rain would either drown out the plants or leave the soil immediately about them cold, sour and not suitable for plant growth,-New England Homewegnd.

A New Device to Save the Swarm.

Every person who has kept bees has had a varied experience as to saving the escaped or escaping swarms. Some are sure to get away the best one can do. A writer in the Germantown Telegraph tells his method as follows:

"I have used a device like this: Take n piece of board, say ten or twelve inches square; bore nine or ten inch holes in it, and in each of these holes stick a corncob. Get a light stick fourteen to eighteen feet long, insert one end in this board, and when your bees swarm, elevate these cobs, and carry it around among the bees where they seem to be thickest, and they are quite sure to 'settle' on them. Then you have only to empty them down before the already prepared hive. You see, this saves climbing into trees, cutting off limbs and lowering them down, which needs a careful hand, and even then, for one cause or another, they are jarred off and the work has to be done over. This scheme simplifies matters, is very practical, is easify done, and there is no patent on it."

Planting First Seed. The first isoportant thing is to get good seed. Buy from a reliable seedman, for it does not pay to waste time with poor, immatured seed. If we have some of our own seed, saved from the year before, so much the better, for we are then sure it is good and fresh. Next get from the cellar dirt that should have been put there in the fail, or if we did not do that, perhaps we can procure it from some other place. Put it in a box, pan or anything that is convenient, and set it near the fire, or in an oven for several days, to drive out the frost and get warmed through. Occasionally give it a stirring to break up the lumps, should from the boxes, thus inclosing the through. When it is thoroughly warm- a loft with a matched floor. The mow ed, and can be easily pulverized take an old sieve, collander or some such thing, and sift all your dirt through It into the boxes that have been prepared for your seed. Pack it down rather closely, sow the seeds, but not too thickly. Then put a thin, even layer of the dirt over the seed, and again pack down with a board or some flat article. Sprinkle lightly with tepid water, and set in a warm place to sprout the seed. On cool nights remove from windows, or any cool place, to the center of the room, or near a stove, where the temperature will not fall below sixty degrees. The best result is obtained by maintaining a normal temperature until the plants get a good start, giving, in the meantime, plenty of sunshine. After the plants have their third or fourth set of leaves, and seem to be crowded in the box, it will help them to transplant in cans, pots or boxes. Give them plenty of room to grow in. After thus transplanting they may be set out of doors on warm days that they may be invigorated, so that the change, when they are planted in the open ground, will not have any effect on them.-The Agricultural Epit. omist.

itarian sentiment to keep cattle too long. for it indicates an attachment for them that one is loth to break, and yet a farmer who is raising animals for his living cannot let sentiment interfere with what he knows to be good business. Others keep cattle too long sim ply because they happen to be ignorant of the best time to dispose of them.

Keeping Animals foo Long.

It is a very commendable and human-

and they keep waiting for a better turn in the markets to help them get good returns. Sometimes this living in th hope of doing better later induces ; farmer to carry his herd over from month to month, and before he knows It a year has slipped by. The animals are meantime eating up all the profits they ever would have made for their owners, and at the same time are passing the prime of life, when they sell

at the best prices. We cannot afford to keep cattle one

full maturity or prime of life. Up to it to-day. this period they have been gaining in weight and flesh, and every pound of tect, contractor, boss carpenter and feed that has been given to them has journeyman combined probably saved made its corresponding amount of \$100, but even with that addition to flesh. Liberal feeding of growing ani- the expense it is a cheap barn, considmals makes glad the heart of the farmer or breeder, but when the food ing that combination seems to meet the ceases to exert its magic influence, then something seems to be wrong. The wrong is very often that the cattle have passed their prime, and all future feeding will merely tend to help them hold their weight. There is no further

well-developed carcasses. It includes a certain tenderness and Iniciness of meat which can be gained only through rapid growing and laying on of flesh This result has been obtained by good feeding of good animals. If these animals had ceased to grow the meat would begin to lose much of its best virtues. It may not be an easy mostter always to tell just when it has reached its full prime, but it is more profitable to sell just before the period, and thus lose the few extra pounds she may he ve gained, than to hold her a few weeks beyond full maturity when she gains nothing in weight and loses in quality. Most of us are inclined to hold our cattle too long, and it may well be of value to some of us to look into the matter. Are we hampering ourselves by holding cattle over for higher markets when they should be sold at once, or are we selling them just as soon as they have reached their prime and are in the very best condition for the market .- E. P. Smith, in American Cultivator.

A Convenient Barn.

Modern having tools are hard to operate in the old-fashloned string-girt centerpost style of building, and a frame with an open center like the one shown in Fig. 1 is coming into use, Aside from the free swing of the horse plow corn stubble ground that has been | fork, it has the advantage of allowing hay or grain to settle without interference from cross girts.

Fig. I represents a plank frame which is shown in detail in Fig. 2. In place of

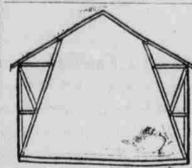
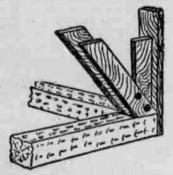


FIG I, -- OPEN CENTER FRAME.

the usual upright post a plank post is made by nalling one plank to the edge of another, T-fashion, Two planks bolted to the foot of this and extending to the purlin with the braces, as shown, form a russ, which takes the place of the usual cross-teed frame,

Fig. 3 shows the barn in perspective and Fig. 4 shows the ground plan. The break between the stanchions is a gate for carrying feed through to the box stalls. The dotted line extending across



PIG. 2-DETAIL OF PLANK FRAME.

the barn by the side of the drive floor is really the imaginary boundary of the feeding floor. 'A slight additional expense would have provided a partition with rolling doors, similar to that in the rear which separates the stable there be any, and to have it heat stable. Over the stables and boxes is floor is also matched.

Nearly under the granary window is a cathole, by which the cats enter the barn through a circuitous alley around the granary. They say this entirely prevents the depredations of rats and mice. For my part, I should have preferred lining the granary with sheet fron, which could have been done for three cents per square foot.

The "lean-to," which forms the ma-



FIG. 3-BARN IN PERSPECTIVE.

nure pit, was built under a separate contract. The timber for sills and ground floor, and also the stones for underpinning, were furnished by the party for whom the building was erected. The site was that of a former barn

that had been destroyed by lightning. and sloped away about four feet in the rear; six-by-eight-inch posts, sixteen feet long, were used instead of the Tplank ones in this particular building. The dimensions were sixty by thirty feet. The building complete, with horse fork in working order, and two coats of princess metallic paint, with

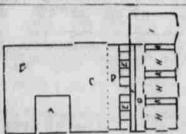


FIG. 4-PLAN OF THE BARN. A. granary; B. mow; C. drive floor; D. leeding floor; E. E. stanchions; F. drop; G. platform; H. H. box stalls; K. K. G, platform; H H, box mangers; I, manure pit.)

white lead trim, was put up a year ago for \$600. Probably \$150 would have to day longer than the time they reach be added to that amount to duplicate

> The fact that the builder was archiering its capacity, and for those desirrequirement in an effective manner. Richard H. Mitchell, in Country Gentle-

Physicians are in great demand in Brazil. They are well paid, but their life is a hard one, as they often have Prime cattile sold in the market to ride all day to reach a patient.

means something more than fat and WAR ON INSECT PESTS.

WAY OF RENDERING PLANTS BANEFUL TO THEIR ENEMIES.

the Annihilation of the Parmer's Four Discussed at the Late Meeting of the Society For the Promotion of Agricultural Science-Pea Lice All Females

The idea advanced by Professor falloway at the joint meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science and the Association of conomic Entomologists, that plants may be so cultivated as to change their chemical constitution, rendering them either agreeable or baneful to insect pests, yet without injury to the plants themselves, suggests the large possibilities of scientific agriculture. And this, one is told, is no mere the ory, but a demonstrated fact. A tobacco grower, whose name was not given, has already put this in practice. He analyzes his plants and finds which are nutritious and which are not so to the insects; and he cultivates those that will starve out the insect. His method seems to depend largely in the mature and experienced judg ment of the grower, varying according to circumstances. Professor Galloway suggests the extension of similar methods to starve out those other pests, now so destructive, the Hessian fly in wheat, and the aphid in pea plants, which, for lack of a bet name has been called the greenpen louse, and which has almost ruined the crop in Maryland for two years-the Nectarophora destructor. One of the most instructive papers

rend was that of Professor Johnson on the rayages of this insect and the fight against it. A small, weak, harmless-looking creature, it came down on the pea plants in May, 1899, a blight as silent and as sudden almost as the destruction of Sennacherib's army, Whole fields turned black and perished, causing the loss of half the or \$3,000,000, and this year \$4,000,000. The insect is viviporous: some are winged, some wingless, but all females and parthenogenetic. ginning to breed when eleven days old, they have six to twelve young daily for nearly a month, so that taking the minimum number, over 400,000 will be produced from one in six weeks. The young are extruded feet first, "born kickers," and it is several minutes before the head appears, during which time they exercise their feet constantly. As soon as born they attach themselves to the leaf, and remain for two days immovable, suck- live evidence of nailed shoes is fur ing the juice of the plant, which is converted into a sort of honey dew, sticky and tarry, ruinous to clothing and even to shoes of persons who go through the fields. So numerous are they as sometimes to cover the leaf entirely. A bushel of them is shaken down from a row of peas ten rods long. Spraying was at first practiced to kill them, but this killed also their enemies. Now the system is to plant peas in rows, and to shake off the insects and follow with a cultivator,

Their most efficient enemy is the larva of the Syrphus, which devours them at the rate of one a minute, but these in turn have their enemies. Bassus is a parasite on them. Other insects also prey on the aphids; and certain parasites attack them. A fungus disease, Empusa, has proved very de-Their original habitat seems to have been clover, from which last year they emigrated to neighboring pea-fields, with such destructive results. Professor Johnson stated. and others in discussion confirmed the statement, that this insect has appeared in destructive numbers this year at many places. Professor Webularly in Ohio. It is feared that other regions will share the fate of Maryland. However, the belief was expressed by several members that the insect may disappear as rapidly as it came. Instances in point are not lacking. Professor Hopkins a few years ago noted the outbreak of a destruct ive insect among the evergreen trees of West Virginia, which has now ut-

terly disappeared. The question of nomenclature of in sects as regards the common names was brought up by a criticism by Professor Fletcher, of the name of "greenpen louse," applied to this insect, as it is not a louse at all, but an aphid, and there is no such plant as "green pen; simply the peas are used when green; also, the insect thrives on other plants, and its usual habitat is clover. Many other anomalies exist in the name commonly applied to insects. very different names being applied to the same insect in different localities. On the other hand, different insects are designated by the same name. causing great confusion. Professor Lounsberry instanced the oyster-shell scale. This resembles the oystershells of this country, but not those of South Africa, so the name seems inapplicable to the same scale there. An amusing instance of multiplication of names was mentioned in the case of the harlequin cabbage bug, which is also called in Maryland the firebug. because it destroys vegetation as if a fire had swept over the country; also the Catholic bug, because it has a cross on its back, and the Spanish bug because it has the Spanish colors; four names in different parts of the same State. A committee was appointed to have charge of the naming of insects, so as to secure uniformity.

The remark was several times made during the meeting that the entomolo gists are better organized and co-operate more efficiently in the United States than any other body of scientists in the world. The proceedings of the Association of Economic Entomologists are regarded as so important that they are annually published by the Secretary of Agriculture at public expense, so that dues of member ship are almost nominal. The Treasurer reports about eight dollars in the Treasury, more than enough for another year's expenses, so no assess

ment was levied this year. Professor Gillette, who presided at his meeting in the absence of Professor Bruner, was elected to preside again next year, and he closed th meeting with the wish that he might meet the association next year at Denyer, which is near his own station. He reports much enthusiasm in Colorado over the prospect that Denver will be selected for next summer's meeting of the alljed societies.-New York Post.

ANTIQUITY OF THE SADDLE. The Heavy War Variety in Use in

provided with them, and the early Ro-

mans used a covering of cloth, hide or

skin, which was, no doubt, very sim

probably represent light saddles. The

heavy war saddle seems to be much

later, one of the earliest instances of

its use being by the Visigoths in A. D.

Bridles were also in use in very dis

tant ages. Ancient Thessalian coins

often represent a horse with a long

rein touching the ground. The young

Romans were trained to ride and mount

unassisted, but the use of the bridle

was known from the first. According

to Livy, Aulus Cornellus, in a battle

with the Fidenae, ordered the Roman

cavalry to unbridle before charging

probably to give them more weight

At the battle of the Ticinus Hannibal's

Numidian horses had no bridles and

were drawn up on the wings, while the

neavy cavalry, with bridles, were in

Stirrups were about 200 years later

han saddles, the first mention being by

the Emperor Mauritius toward the enc

of the sixth century. In earlier times

the Greeks mounted by means of ;

cramp iron attached to the lance, while

the young Romans leaped, spear in

hand, from either side of the horse

The younger Gracehus adopted the

Greek method of placing large stones

at intervals along the road to assist

Spurs were probably little earlier

than the first feudal times. The great

importance of the spur in the days of

chivalry seems to point to its having

been a late invention. The barbarous

good-a single spike, which was the

earliest form-was replaced in the four-

teenth century by the large rowelled

Horseshoes are of uncertain date

and have caused some discussion

among military historians. Nalled

shoes were not known by the Greeks.

for Xenophon gives minute instruc-

tions for hardening the hoof. Nor did

the Romans use them. Nero had mules

shod with a plate of silver fastened by

crossed thongs to the hoof. With Pop

paea, his later wife, it is said these

plates were of gold. The earliest post

nished by the skeleton of a horse found

in the tomb of Childerick I. (458-581) at

Tournay, in 1653,-Notes and Queries

Of Course He Knew.

"You understand, of course," pur

sted the lawyer, "what is meant by a

"Yes, sir," replied the man whom he

was examining with reference to his

"Let me have your ideas of it, if you

"Why, anybody can understand that,

"Still, I would like to have your defi

'I know what it is, all right. When

I tell you I know what a thing is I

know it. That's all there is about

"Well, what was the question I asked

"You ought to know what that was

If you've forgot your own questions

don't try to get me to remember them

"I don't want to hear any more of

hat kind of talk," interposed the court.

Answer the questions addressed to

"Judge, I did. He asked me if

"Are you sure you understand what

s meant by the term 'preponderance of

enew what it was, and I said I did."

"Well, let us hear your idea of is.

"It's evidence that's been previously

Island of St. Helena.

An English health journal says in re-

gard to St. Helena as a place of mili-

tary confinement, that from the health

point of view, probably no place in the

world could be found more suitable

than St. Helena for the confinement of

prisoners of war. There is not in the

whole island an insaluprious spot

The temperature is remarkably equa-

ble, and although the island is so much

nearer the equator than the cape, it is

very much cooler. The winters are

much warmer than those of England.

but the summer heat is rarely so great

The whole island is much above the

level of the sea and always breezy

The water supply from 160 wells is ex

cellent, and almost all kinds of Euro

pean fruits and vegetables are grown.

Should the prisoners desire employ

ment, there is much land needing recia

mation and abundant scope for gar

dening. 'As the island lies on the

ocean highway there should be no diffi

culty in supplying abundance of mut

Love Birds For Sweethearts.

It's the proper thing now for the am

rous swain to send a pair of love

birds to his inamorata, says a Phila

delphia dealer, who has them for sale

at \$10 a pair, including the cage. Love

birds are charming little things. They

come from China and Java, where

they are as plentiful as the English

sparrow is here. In fact, they resem

ble the sparrow in build, although they

are pure white and have quite large

beaks of a delicate pink. They are

very affectionate, and will sit for hours

pressed closely against each other on

their perch, billing and cooling in fine

says in confidence, that he has them or

sale because flowers are too common in

summer for the young men to send the

girls, and he thought the love birds

To Preserve Old Battle Flags.

Battle flags, as kept in most reposit :

ries in this country, are in great dan-

ger of decay. In the Royal Museum at

Dresden the flags are supported at

each end by a staff, the stripes of the

flag running horizontally. Then the

flag is mounted upon a background of

wire netting, with meshes about two

inches square. This distributes the

support of the flag evenly all over its

surface.-Chleago News.

would just about fill the bill.

The dealer, who is a florist,

tou, coffee and other necessaries.

"Of course I am, Judge."

ondered."-Chicago Tribune.

preponderance of evidence?

"I understand it, I tell you."

qualifications as a juror.

"Well, what is it?"

please?"

you?"

for you."

evidence?"

on by the counsel."

nition of it."

horsemen to mount.

340. Theodosius the Great fifty years

later effected great improvements.

Har.

the centre.

These early examples would

Saddles in some form are of the DO WITH CUNS. greatest antiquity. Under Tiglath-Pileser III. the Asyrian cavalry were

Where It Got Its Several Names-Thrilling Stories of Its Use-First Carried by British Soldiers Under Charles II One Bayonet Against an Army.

It is rather curious that the weapon first called a bayonet had nothing to do with musket or rifle, but was simply a short, fat dagger. Three hundred years ago it was described as a great knife to hang at the girdle like a dagger. Lingard, the historian, writing of a battle fought in France in 1453, says that the English commander was slain, as he lay on the field, with bayonet"-meaning, no doubt, the kind of weapon we have just de scribed. British soldiers did not carry a bayonet of the modern kind as part of their equipment till the time of Charles II. That not very warlike monarch ordered by royal warrant that the soldiers were "to have and to carry one bayonet or great knife." In those days the "great knife" was a kind of last resource. The bayonet in its first form could only be used by having its handle screwed solidly into the musket barrel, thereby completely blocking the muzzle; so it was not until the ammunition was exhausted, or until the enemy were so close that there was not sufficient time for the ers the butter with a crystalline layer. somewhat lengthy and complicated process of recharging the clumsy old

muzzle-loading muskets-it was not till

then that the bayonet was brought

into play.

Our friends the enemy, however, before long taught us how to turn the weapon to better account. While the battle of Ramillies was in progress, in May, 1706, some keen-eyed observer on the British side noticed that the French infantry were able to charge with the bayonet immediately they had fired their volley, not waiting to screw their "knives" into the muzzles of their muskets. When the battle was over and Marlboro's victorious troops held the field, some of the firelocks abandoned by the foe in their fight were picked up and examined, and it was found that the bayonet was secured by a circular band of metal clasping the barrel, a simple arrange ment, which left the muzzle perfectly clear. The wonder is that such a clumsy process as stuffing the solid handle of the bayonet into the mouth of the musket was ever adopted at all. Our military authorities, however, were not above taking a hint from the enemy, and the English bayonets were

soon fitted after the French manner. There has been some discussion as to the origin of the word "bayonet." The commonly received explanation is that the weapon takes its name from the city of Bayonne, in Southern France, where the bayonet is supposed to have been first made or first used. This is likely enough, although there is no direct evidence on the point, but it is also possible that the word is derived, as a diminutive, from an old French word, "bayon," which meant the arrow or shaft of a crossbow. The diminutive termination of "ette," from the long-pointed arrow to the short, stabbing dagger, would be natural and easy, but the matter is of no great importance, and it is certainly not worth dogmatizing about.

It may be noted, by the way, that the vulgar pronunciation of "bayonet," "bagnet"-"Now, gen'I'men, 'fall on,' as the English said to the French when they fixed bagonets," remarked Mr. Weller at the picnic-is of very long standing, and was originally of the highest respectability. A diction- driver further in by. Fortunately, the ary maker of 1751, Benjamin Martin, after defining the word as meaning "a short dagger, having, instead of a hilt, a hollow iron handle to fix it to the muzzle of a musquet, now used instead of a pike," goes on to say: "We speak the word bagonet." Another lexicographer of a few years later, remarks somewhat naively, that the bayonet, when ammunition is spent, is no bad resource." A very early example of the now vulgar pronunciation may be found in the Loudon Gazette of 1692. where, in No. 2742, "bagonets and all other arms," are mentioned in an official notice. And a little later, in a book published about 1700, the authorship of which has been attributed to Defoe, some peaceful person plaintively pleads: "I came not into the world to be cannonaded or bagnoetted out of it." The weapon, however, has pushed a great many peaceful folk, as well :.s fashlon. By the way, I have always its more legitimate prey, out of the

No army, of course, can claim a monopoly of the use of the bayonet, but it has been peculiarly associated with quite as impossible a feat for a bird the heroic deeds of British infantry on as for a human being. However, the many a hard-fought field, and in many toucan's sleeping arrangements resulta struggle in the imminent deadly breach. At Waterloo it was the bristling lines of bayonets girdling the invincible squares of infantry that the French found it vain to attack. Again and again the French cavalry surged I grieve to state was often done-in against those seemingly solid islands of men and steel, but could make no that he invariably tumbled down in a impression on them. More recently, at Abu Klea, and on other Egyptian just the balance required by the ponbattlefields, the gallant dervishes who survived the fire of rifles and Maxims found the line of bayonets a last and impregnable line of defense. As a weapon of offense, too, as well as of defense, the bayonet has proved of wonderful effect in British hands.

mutiny struggle in India, when three of the enemy's guns were strongly posted behind a lofty hamlet, well intrenched, says that he ordered the Seyenty-eighth Highlanders to advance, "Never," he wrote, "have I witnessed conduct more admirable. They were led by Colonel Hamilton, and followed him with surpassing steadiness and gallantry under a heavy fire. As they approached the village they cheered and charged with the bayonet, the pipes sounding the pibroch. Need I add that the enemy fled, the village was taken and the guns captured?" The combination of bayonets and bagpipes was irresistible.

The glittering steel did similar work on many of the peninsular battlefields. At the sanguinary struggle of Busaco the hold of the British on the height which was the main object of the French attack was secured by the charge ordered by Crawford when, in Naniar's I terorise,

STORY OF THE BAYONET, graphic phrase, "eighteen hundred British bayonets went sparkling over the brow of the hill." A few days be ORIGINALLY IT HAD NOTHING TO fore this battle was fought a singular incident had occurred, when a single Irish soldier attacked the French arms with his bayonet. It was toward the end of the fighting on the Con, and practically the whole of the British army had retreated across the river. Among the last to come down was gigantic Ulsterman named Stewart called the "Boy" because he was only nineteen years of age, though of great stature and strength. Throughout the action he had fought bravely, but when he reached the bridge he refused to pass. "Turning round," says the historian, "he regarded the French with a grim look and spoke aloud as follows: "So this is the end of our-boasting! This is our first battle and we retreat The boy Stewart will not live to hear that said." Then, striding forward in his giant might be fell furlously on the nearest enemies with the bayonet refused the quarter they seemed de strous of granting, and died fighting in the midst of them!"

CURIOUS FACTS.

Butter is now preserved in France by varnishing it. The varnish is very strong syrup, which is applied warm. The heat melts the surface of the but ter, which mingles with the syrup The latter sets very rapidly, and cov

A mystery with which every sailor is familiar is the formation of dust at Those who are acquainted with sailing ships know that, no matter how carefully the decks may washed down in the morning and how little work of any kind may be done during the day, nevertheless, if the decks are swept at nightfull an enor mous quantity of dust will be collected

The Park Board of Detroit, Mich. has authorized the construction of a rather novel electrical fountain for one of its parks. The basin will be forty feet in diameter, and the fountain proper will comprise five cobblestone columns, from the apex of each of which will burst a stream of water all to be lighted by hidden electribulbs. The fountain will cost \$3000.

In South Africa the British sentric gave warning of the firing of the Boer guns by a peculiar whistle. It seems according to the London Daily Mail, that the mocking birds have learned to whistle in complete mimiery of the sentries. They gave their warning whistles and then greatly enjoyed see ing the soldiers dodge into cover, to wait in terrible suspense for the shell that did not come.

Among curious trees are the grass trees of Australia, which send out long grasslike streamers; the rice paper tree of China; the centre of which is filled with pith, which is made into a delicate and beautiful paper; the wax palms of New Granada. which grow to a height of 100 feet. the branchless trunk being coated with a vegetable wax that is mixed with transfer of the name, with the added tallow and made into candles by the natives.

During a recent thunderstorm in the Fast Durham district, England, there was a remarkable phenomenon at Sherburn Colliery. The lightning entered the wire rope hanging from the bully and attached to the cage, which was at the bottom, and by this means passed into the pit, where it was distinctly seen to strike the flat-sheets, The force did not, however, expend itself here, but struck a lamp held by a lad was not injured

The Toucan at Buost.

The tonean was an amiable and, at first, a silent bird. He lived in a very large cage, chiefly on fruit, and tubbed constantly. But the curious and amus ing thing was to see him preparing to roost, and he began quite early, while other birds were still wide awake. The first thing was carefally to cock upfor it was a slow and cautious proceeding-his absurd little scut of a tail, which was only about three or four inches long. This must in some way have affected his balance, for he never moved on the perch after the tail had been laid carefully back. Then, later in the evening, he gently turned the huge, unwieldy bill around by degrees, until it, too, was laid along his back and buried in feathers in the usual bird wondered bow and why the myth arose that birds sleep with their heads un der their wings? A moment's thought or observation would show that it is ed in producing an oval mass of fearhers supported on one leg, looking as unlike a bird as it is possible to imagine. When he was ruthlessly awakened by a sudden poke or noise, which my absence, needless to say-I heard sprawling heap, being unable to adderous bill all in a moment.-The Cornhill. A Defence of Blacksnakes.

The reporter was advised not to kill a blacksnake under any circumstances. An old honest, reliable man explained Other enemies than Boers have found thus: "Only a few days ago I saw it difficult to face the "cold steel" at a black racer whizzing around in a close quarters. Sir Henry Havelock, circle, his flaming eyes distended; his describing a small action during the attention seemed riveted on something not far away. I advanced, and, to my astonishment, I saw a large rattle snake colled up in battle array. The blacksnake continued his circuits, getting a little nearer his victim each time. After ten or fifteen minutes the rattlesnake dropped his head on the ground. Almost instantaneously the blacksnake pounced on his victim. After securely fastening his teeth in the back of the rattlesnake's head, he be gan his deadly coiling. Within five minutes that rattlesnake was dead. So don't kill a blacksnake." The color came in the old gentleman's face as he was relating the above, and he said; Boys, blacksnakes are game, but they won't hurt you, for I had one for a pet for four years, and because my old woman woke up one night and found the snake in bed she raised an awful fuss and killed it."-Lebanon (Ky.) En-



Decorating the Table. There are many conventional for table decorations, but each h keeper should carry out he ideas. A table set without ind ality is much like a nouse for by an upholsterer. Have for day use a potted plant, or, if cut ors are acceptable, a few cut for If the table is large a handsome of fruit or flowers in the centre the candelubra or candlesticks small dishes of ferns hear the Ribbon and lace have no place dinary table decorations. All should be washable and made of materials as may be easily kept !

What Laundresses Fail to Compre Soft water for washing is prote to hard, for various reasons. first place, because it uses less more soap being required to me lather with hard water than with In the second place, because har ter contains a deposit of lime, is not good for the clothes, to to rot the fibres. One soon lear know the difference in feeling bet hard and soft water. There is no stance so hard that it cannot b solved sooner or later with Water dissolves the dirt, and without soap will do this, we soap, however, to soften the which holds the particles of dir, loosen as the grease is softened therefore, the water which you compelled to use is hard, use i to soften It.-Woman's Home panion. Preparing For Preserving Day. In putting up fruit see that all

essentials are on hand before ning work. Don't wait until the is in the preserving kettle before ning to the corner grocery for a sugar. It is economy of time to sugar in twenty-five or fifty-p bags this month, for you will no right along. See that all utensil in perfect order, that a supply of rubber bands is on hand, and the cans and glasses are as clean sweet and clear as soap and a can make them. If every time has been emptled it has been car washed and dried and put away its own top screwed on-this pa the work will be greatly simple Yet, even if cleaned before p away, they will need to be se just before using. Have r small, sharp-pointed knife for pa a silver plated fruit knife gro a fine edge and kept expressly for purpose is best. Have a half pour paraffine on hand for covering several long-handled wooden sp a ladle, a colunder, a bright til st or, a small skewer or silver aut several large howis and platters a couple of large porcelain or ite kettles. Never use tin vessel cooking fruit, nor yet from when thoroughly cleaned, is ple to use, but its expense and the necessary to keep it in good tion preclude its adoption in the dinary kitchen. A plentiful supcheese cloth and towels, and a mouthed funnel to use in filli



should also be in readiness.

either fresh or canned tomatoes; en with a little flour, season with Moisten the toast, and then pom tomatoes over it.

Parsley Fritters-Pour boiling ter on half a pound of stale h Drain well, add a cup of par minced fine, four eggs, two salis fuls of salt and one of pepper. into fritters, fry and serve with be quarters.

Asparagus Salad-Take the from one pound of cold asparagus one cucumber into thin silces; stand one hour in cold water. add to it half a teaspoonful of Mix lightly with the tips, cover mayonnaise dressing and serve of

Almond Dressing Shell and bitwelve sweet and four bitter almosoak them in cold water an hour. drain and pound in a mortar with tle lemon juice; add enough more on juice to make it the consistent thin cream. Heap strawberries or beart leaves of head lettuce in ind nal saucers, and dust with sugar: pour the dressing over.

An inexpensive Ice Cream-Ta gallon of new milk, and place a it, except a pint, or a little more, a pan over the fire, and let it be ing. With the pint make a good tard, using two eggs, and thicken two ounces of corn flour. When milk approaches the boiling point, the custard, stirring it constantly it thickens. Set aside to cool, when cold freeze in the ordinary

Bride's Cake Icing-Beat the W of three eggs to a stiff froth. gradually one pound of confection sugar, beating all the time. Beat til the mixture will not run spread, and then add a few drop a grain or two, of ultramarine of digo blue. Mix this in carefully that it will not streak. Apply to cake with a broad, pliable kulfe as painters use for scraping pallet

Angel Parfait—Boil a cupful of gar and a half cupful of water to soft-ball stage. Pour on the wh of two eggs beaten until foamy, until cold. Flavor with a third spoonful of violet extract and fo the whip from three cupfuls of cre Turn into a mold. Press down cover over a sheet of paper. in ice and salt for four hours. from the mold, garnish and serve

Indyfingers.