

RULES FOR PRUNING.

Ten Valuable Suggestions Offered by H. L. Mesatek, a Well-Known Illinois Expert.

- 1. The knife or saw should never be used on a fruit or ornamental tree unless there are positively good reasons for so doing.
2. Train all trees while young with a central leader or main shoot and never allow the two main branches to grow in such a way as to have the weight of the trees come upon a fork of the main trunk.
3. When branches cross, so as to be injured by rubbing together, the weaker of the two should be cut out.
4. When one branch rests on another under it, the weaker of the two should be cut out.
5. Suckers or water sprouts should be thinned out before they have made much growth; but if the main branches are bare, or if the head is open in places, suckers should be allowed to grow where they will cover the condition.
6. If large branches are to be removed, make the cut in the middle of the enlarged part where it joins the main branch or trunk, and not quite in line with the face of the main branch or trunk.
7. Paint all wounds about one-half inch in diameter with linseed oil paint, gas tar or grafting wax.
8. Never cut away the main branches of a tree if it can be avoided, but thin out the head, when it becomes crowded, from the outside.
9. Cut off dead branches as soon as discovered and cover the wound with paint to prevent further decay.
10. In training young trees, start the branches low; the trees will grow better, the thinning and gathering the fruit will be more easily done, and the cultivation can be as well and cheaply done with the modern Acme or spring-tooth harrow and weeder as if the head were high.
11. The ground under it will be so protected that growth will be better than if more exposed.
12. Midland Farmer.

A RACK FOR SCREENS.

Convenient little Arrangement to Have Around When Screens Have to Be Stored.

This illustration shows a convenient arrangement for storing folding screen frames. It can be made of any material, such as secure four pieces of well-seasoned wood.



RECENTLY MADE FROM SCREENS.

One square foot length depending on the size of the screen frames. Strips should be fasten to one-inch wide boards and a little longer than the screens. Fasten the strips to the end pieces with one-half or three-fourths inch screws. Attach the two sides of the rack together by four strips about one inch square, as shown in the figure. Mark the screens at one end. The rack may be stored away and completely covered up but if one end is exposed with the screens properly marked they can be easily gotten. J. H. Allhouse, Jr. Orange, Ind. Farmer.

When Buying Orchard Trees.

When buying orchard trees, the buyer should be sure to get a tree with a good trunk, a well-developed root system, and a well-developed branch system. The tree should be free from disease and insect pests. The buyer should also be sure to get a tree that is well adapted to the soil and climate of the locality. The tree should be planted in a well-drained soil, and should be watered during the first year after planting. The tree should be pruned in the winter, and should be fertilized in the spring. The tree should be protected from winter injury by covering the trunk with straw or other material.

This is as Good as Mud.

The editor of a weekly newspaper in Australia offers himself as a prize to the woman who writes the best essay on the duties of a wife. This is the prize winner among all the prize schemes we have yet seen. There are 2,000,000 words in the strike evidence. It will be a great mine for the historical novelist a hundred years from now—that's all. Dr. Van Dyke is of the opinion that there are two distinct departments in ornithology—other birds and English sparrows. For the pean choose land where the hickory thrives.

After awhile, perhaps, no foreign power which sends a diplomatic representative to the court of Uncle Sam, at Washington, will dream of accrediting an ambassador to the United States unless he has the felicity and distinction of being the husband of an American woman. It used to be thought that diplomatists were trained exclusively in the school of statecraft and experience. Now, it seems, another qualification is required and an additional course of study prescribed. says the Baltimore Sun. When the British government was looking around for a successor to the late Lord Pauncefoot its choice fell on a gentleman who, in addition to many accomplishments, had an American wife. There is a possibility that he would not have been chosen if he had not previously entered into a matrimonial alliance with a fair daughter of the new world. Again, when Kaiser Wilhelm recalled Dr. von Holleben he chose from among the many talented men in the German diplomatic service a lucky gentleman who had espoused an American maiden. Finally, when a change was made in the French embassy at Washington, M. Jean Jules Jusserand was selected as the ambassador of the Gallic republic. M. Jusserand is an author of eminence, a diplomat of distinction, but would ambassadorial lightning have struck him if he were not one of the parties to a Franco-American matrimonial alliance?

If the statisticians are to be believed February is one of Cupid's busy months. The Cupid and the Shortest Month. Cupid's busy months are January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December. But February, in one respect at least, leads them all. It is the month of proposals. The same statisticians mentioned above tell us that June is the month of weddings. They say, also, that the average interval between the first gurgling kiss of true love and the march to the altar is four calendar months. Thus if June is the month of weddings, February is the month of proposals. Since the early fall, says the Baltimore Herald, Romeo and Juliet—sometimes their names are Mike and Maggie, but we shall call them Romeo and Juliet—have been holding hands. Romeo has been adding entries to the parental gas bill, and has been holding his own in the theater, and Juliet has been holding the hand of Romeo. February he summons up courage and advances to the waist encircling grasp of passionate adoration. In June an honest and hard-working clergyman will profit to the extent of five dollars, and old Dan Cupid will begin work on his next year's victims.

The recent breakdown of many of the society leaders at Washington, including Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Knox, makes it apparent that the machinery for carrying on the social functions at the national capital should be promptly strengthened and perhaps entirely remodeled. The custom of making calls had to undergo a complete change, owing to the physical inability of Washington residents during the season to make calls, and it was found that a coach and footman driven furiously all afternoon could deliver 800 cards, which answered the purpose just as well. Something similar will have to be invented for dinners, luncheons, teas and receptions. Instead of readily giving a dinner, suggests the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, the hostess can send around a box lunch and a bottle of wine, with half a dozen roses. This ought to do just as well, and get the eternal whirl of society into a better regulated system, while it permitted society women to have a few minutes to spare with the dressmaker. There ought to be more going through the motions and not so much lousier sound and staying up late.

This amusing excuse was given by the editor of an Indian vernacular paper, which was printed with two columns left blank on the most important page: "We had reserved this space for an exceptionally powerful article on a subject of universal interest to our readers, but at the last moment we find the article cannot be compressed into the two columns reserved for it. The article will make its appearance next week."

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WORK OF JEFFERSON

It Certainly Entitles Him to the Nation's Gratitude.

Memorial to the Author of the Declaration of Independence to be Erected at Washington by Public Subscription.

It ought to be easy for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial association to accomplish its purpose. The association, which has a branch in each state, and which has Admiral Dewey at its head, has issued an appeal to the American people for funds to erect a tablet, monument or other memorial to Jefferson at the national capital. The intention is not to ask anything from congress, but to rely solely on the voluntary contributions of the people. The admiral says that "the character and cost of the proposed memorial cannot now be stated, but it will be appropriate to the greatness of the man and the importance of the document from which his name is inseparable. Rigid economy will be observed in carrying on the work."

Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statue of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia. This inscription on his grave in Monticello, written by Jefferson himself, omits one very important claim which its author had on the remembrance of his countrymen. It made no reference to the Louisiana expansion, which is the act of Jefferson's that is uppermost in the minds of his countrymen at this time. Oddy, too, Admiral Dewey, who has just issued his appeal for funds for the memorial, seems not to have had this act in mind. Jefferson's and Dewey's countrymen, however, will supply the omission. The statute of religious freedom for Virginia and the creation of the great university of that state,



THOMAS JEFFERSON (Monument to His Memory Soon to be Erected at Washington.)

though important events, were hardly as great as the act by which their author doubled the area of the United States and started the country on its career of expansion. That act averted the possibility of the creation of a Canada on our western border, decreed that the United States should diffuse itself across the continent between the two oceans, and redefined it inevitable that this country should be paramount in the western hemisphere and be one of the great forces in the world's progress.

The lack of a Jefferson memorial in Washington, which has monuments and statues to many smaller personages, is one of the surprises of the age. Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in the present seat of American government. The man for whom the capital city was named was dead at the time the seat of national authority was transferred to its present location. Washington's first inauguration was in New York and Adams' was in Philadelphia, but Jefferson and all his successors have been inducted into office in Washington. For many reasons it is eminently proper that the third president should have a memorial in that city. The vast Louisiana province, which had 37,000,000 of the country's 76,000,000 of people in 1800, and which forms one of the richest portions of the United States, will always be a monument to Jefferson, but the remembrance which is sought to be put up in the national capital is so eminently fitting that it is strange its erection should have been delayed to our day. Here in the vast region which Jefferson's foresight and courage added to the domain of the American people the appeal for funds for a memorial to him should, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, meet an especially prompt and hearty response.

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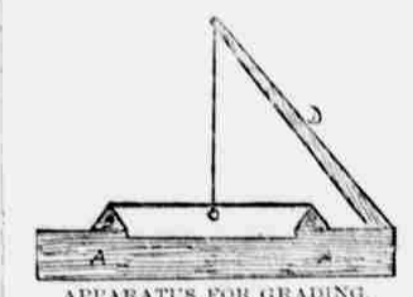
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HORTICULTURE

GETTING RIGHT GRADE.

Simple Little Apparatus Which is Helpful for Farmers Who Have to Dig Drains.

A device for assisting in getting the grade while digging drains is described by a correspondent of American Agriculturist. "I took a piece of board (a, a) eight feet long, seven inches wide, and nailed on two three-cornered pieces (b, b), cutting out the section of the board between them, as shown in the illustration. Tack I nailed a piece of lath across



APPARATUS FOR GRADING.

the tops of the three-cornered pieces. A piece of clapboard (d) three feet long, was sharpened nearly to a point on the thin side and nailed diagonally to the side of the eight-foot board, thin edge down, so that the point of the clapboard would be about 20 inches above the center of the lath. If the lower edge of the board is straight and placed in a level position the line will hang at right angles with it. Have the edge of the lath planed. Take a sharp pencil and mark each side of the line and cut a notch on the lath. To illustrate the use of the device, when the board is level, if a two-inch block is put under one end and a notch cut behind the line, the plumb line will indicate the grade and the operator will get a two inch fall for every eight feet, eight feet being the length of the board.

MICE IN THE ORCHARD.

Unless the "Omen of Prevention" is Resorted To They May Do Considerable Damage.

Young orchard trees are almost as likely to be injured by mice in some parts of the country as by rabbits in other places. Sometimes when the snow goes off in the spring, it is found that many trees have had their bark more or less gnawed off by mice. The injury extends from three to six inches above the ground and may entirely encircle the trunk. If the trees are small and have been completely girdled, there is little hope of saving them, especially if a wide strip of bark has been entirely removed. With larger trees or smaller injuries, much can be done to repair the damage, if the injured wood is not allowed to become dry. The wound should be immediately covered with grafting wax or a thick coat of paint and covered by a mound of earth heaped up around it. If the wound is not too large, it will in time be covered by a new growth of bark. High manuring and frequent cultivation will hasten this process of repairing the injury.

In this case, as in all others, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." An orchard should never be planted in soil, as the surrounding grass and weeds greatly increase the danger from mice. If mice are known to be in the orchard, the trunks may be covered for a distance of 20 inches from the ground with wire mosquito netting, or with thin wooden veneers, thus affording protection against rabbits and other pests also. If this has not been done, the danger may be greatly lessened by tramping the snow down hard around the trees after each storm.—Prairie Farmer.

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