HOMEMADE IMPLEMENTS.

A Neat Soil Marker for Quick Work in the Garden—A Useful Weeder.

The originator of the device shown in the first cut finds it quite useful for neat, quick work in sowing, pricking out and transplanting. Take a piece of board an inch thick and two inches wide, and of any desired length; draw a line down the

SIMPLE MARKER FOR SMALL BEDS.

center of each side and one edge, and with a plane or sharp knife pare it down to a sharp edge; fasten a handle of convenient size and length at center of strip on the upper edge and the device is complete.

Grasp the handle firmly, press the sharp edge into the earth, and you have a straight, even drill of uniform depth for sowing. By marking and cross marking, as in corn planting, you have even spacing for pricking or transplanting. To mark off the distance to next row you might also put on a runner at one side, fastened to rod of iron passing through the marker, as shown in lower figure. This runner can be adjusted any distance and do perfect work. Of course handle and marking strips can be made any length from a few inches to several feet. After trying one you will probably make several of different sizes.

A HOMEMADE WEEDER.

Another convenient contrivance which, together with the foregoing one, was originally described in Popular Gardening—from which our cuts are reproduced—is a homemade weeder, made as follows: Take a section of an old mowing machine knife, drill a hole in center, grind all the edges sharp, rivet an iron rod about a foot long to it, passing through the center hole, and fit a wooden handle to the rod. You will then have a useful implement to cut out weeds from among garden vegetables.

Just Out of Great Men.

The country is always "just out" of great men. The death of the poet Lowell, the perpetual invalidism of Whitman and the great age of Whittier have led many papers of late to lament the decay of American poetry. These great masters of their art, we are told, will leave no successors behind them. But great men, from the standpoint of their contemporaries, never leave any successors behind. This is due to the fact that a great man is not visible until he has receded to a great distance. He is usually measured pretty accurately after he is dead. After Washington, Hamilton, Jay and Jefferson died the lament was raised that the age of statesmen had passed. The great heroic figures of our history had passed off the stage of action and left no successors. This lament was raised, too, when Webster, Clay, Calhoun and Jackson were in the full flush of their remarkable powers.

After these great men had left the stage of action the lament was again raised that the age of great men had passed. To be sure, the presidential chair was occupied by an awkward backwoodsman from Illinois. But Lincoln was called a vulgar story teller, an irresolute, vacillating, good natured man, well meaning enough, but with no executive ability. Charles Sumner was in the United States senate, but he was called a visionary bookworm, full of fanatical theories, but possessing no practical statesmanship. Now we look back to the time of Lincoln and Sumner and say, "There were giants on the earth in those days." So the world is always "just out" of great men, simply because it does not appreciate a good thing when it sees it—or it must see a good thing a long while before it can properly estimate its qualities.

English Oysters.

The English system of oyster cultivation is still what it has been for hundreds of years in that country, and there are two parts to it. The dredging of the small oysters, or brood, on the open grounds near shore, and the subsequent planting of them on the fattening beds of Essex and the Thames estuary, and the culture of larger beds in deeper waters beyond the ordinary fore stages.

On the southern coasts of England the first system prevails, and the Thames oysters, which are the product of it, are by Englishmen esteemed the best in the world. They are, at any rate, rare and costly. The shell is delicate and the flesh plump. The Thames beds are for fattening and for breeding, and receive great care. Fattening oysters do not really yield much spat; and if any falls it is left to its natural fate in those beds. The nourishment the oyster gets there is "largely from diatomaceae and minute spores of confervae, the latter giving that prevailing delicate green tint" which the English connoisseurs delight in. Bushels of periwinkles are scattered over the beds to keep back a too excessive growth.—Joel Benton in Drake's Magazine.

Salvias.

For large conservatories, in their season, salvias are most valuable. Young plants struck this spring must not be starved. As they grow, a few pinchings will be needful to keep them in fairly good shape and to regulate the growth. I have found that nearly all loams, and that not of the lightest, will grow these plants well. In richer soil too vigorous a growth is made, which is not eventually so free flowering. Full exposure to the light and air is needful to obtain short jointed growth. Overpotting should be guarded against, particularly so in the case of the autumn and early winter kinds. The spring varieties will require pots a trifle larger, of these nothing surpasses the fine old Gesneraeflora salvia (Salvia coccinea [illegible]).

HARDY STOCKS FOR THE CHERRY.

Two Native Cherries Recommended as Excellent for Budding.

That we now have varieties of the cherry from east Europe hardy enough for the north is beyond all doubt or dispute, but, as stated by Professor J. L. Budd in an address before the Minnesota Horticultural society, when worked on the commercial stocks they are liable to be lost by root killing. Professor Budd says: "It will prove best to grow them from root cuttings, but at present trees on their own roots are scarce, and I believe that we can profitably use two of our native species. The wild red cherry (Prunus Pennsylvanica) has proved an excellent stock for budding. Trees now several years old have not outgrown the stock, and the union is about perfect. The dwarf mountain cherry (Prunus pumila), as seen in the native haunts, does not appear to be well adapted for use as a stock. But we find its seedlings to be upright in habit and to bud as well as the Mahaleb. The plants can be grown thickly in nursery and set out the succeeding spring to root the budding, precisely as practiced with Mahaleb. At present I think this will prove the favorite stock for the whole north and extreme northwest for the dwarf varieties of the race which unite perfectly with its wood.

The Tomato Eggplant.

Professor Bailey, of the Cornell University Experiment station, in a bulletin devoted to the various species of egg plants, as tested at the station grounds, describes the Tomato eggplant here illustrated. He says, regarding this so called novelty:

It is sold as the Chinese Scarlet and Ornamental eggplant, and it is probably the one which has been lately distributed as a great novelty under the name of Tomato eggplant. It goes under the name of Solanum [illegible]. Its nativity appears to be wholly unknown. It is probably African. I have called it the Ethiopian eggplant.

THE TOMATO EGGPLANT.

It is a coarse plant, three feet high, with large lobed leaves, and the stems, petioles and midribs armed with strong and very sharp spines a half inch long. The small white flowers are usually borne in clusters of two to six. The fruit is small, rarely much exceeding two inches in diameter, bright scarlet or yellow and conspicuously lobed, after the manner of the old Early Red tomato.

It has the general habit of growth of the ordinary eggplants, more compact, if anything, and easy to fruit. The species is only curious and ornamental, the fruits not being eaten.

Turnips for Table and Stock.

The turnip holds its rank as one of the staple products of the farm, the more delicate and finer flavored sorts being favorite table vegetables and the field varieties being a valuable aid to the digestion of coarse fodder when fed to stock. With straw and a little meal, turnips furnish excellent food for sheep. For the main fall crop, turnips may be sown in middle and western states till the latter part of August.

STRAP LEAF TURNIPS.

Our cut shows the favorite strap leaf kind, of which there are several varieties excellent for market or family use.

For fall market purposes the White Egg, so called from its shape, is said to be especially adapted on account of its quick growth, white skin and sweet, firm and solid flesh.

The white, flat Norfolk is a standard for field culture; it is fine for stock and much used for feeding with straw to sheep. It often attains a large size.

The Pomeranian White Globe, which is very productive and grows very large in good soil, is also a superior kind for field culture.

Bee Moths.

The bee moth deposits its eggs for the first brood in May or June and for the later brood in August. The remedy for them is to keep the colonies strong and the hives full of bees. Professor Cook says Italian bees are rarely injured by moths and strong colonies never. Weak and queenless colonies are the ones most liable to moth invasion. No bees, black or Italian, will be troubled with these insects so long as all the combs are covered with bees. In working with bees, when an occasional web is seen glistening in the comb, it should be picked out with a knife and the larva found and crushed. Any larva seen about the bottom board, making a place to spin its cocoon, or any pupae, either in cracks or in a crack, should also be killed. Where a colony, through neglect, has become thoroughly overloaded by moths, then the bees and any combs not affected should be transferred to another hive, after which the old hive should be sulphured and cleaned before being used.

The Coach Horse in France.

The first government stable we visited was at Amiens. There were eleven stallions kept here, all very fine ones. Among these was the noted stallion Harley, for which the owner was offered $8,000 by an American importer last year. He was sold to the government afterward for more money. This horse made a record as a trotter last season of 4,000 yards in six minutes forty seconds, or over 2¼ miles at the rate of 2.56. He weighs 1,400 pounds, very handsome, with eight inches of bone in front. He is a very fine specimen of the lighter type and stands at the same low service fee charged for all government stallions, three dollars by the season.—Cor. American Cultivator.

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