

IMPROVED CANNAS ATTRACTIVE AND SATISFACTORY PLANTS

Started in March and Bedded Out When Danger of Frost Is Past, It Begins to Bloom Early in Summer and Keeps Up Display Until Killing Frosts of Autumn—How to Propagate.



Canna in Bloom.

The improved cannas are among the most attractive and satisfactory of bedding plants. The beds have tropical foliage, grow well in any rich, moist, sunny bed, branch, and bear huge spikes of rich-colored flowers that often measure more than six inches across. Started in March and bedded out when danger from frost is past the plants begin to bloom early in summer, and keep up the display until the frosts of autumn, says Park's Floral Magazine.

Cannas are propagated either from seeds or by division of the clumps. Seedlings begin to bloom the first year, and a fine mixed bed can be produced from them. The seeds are rather tardy in germination unless dropped in scalding water till the hard outer cover bursts, then taken out and planted. Some file through the covering. Many persons, however, plant the seeds without treating them, and meet with good success. By starting plants from seeds choice varieties are often found, and it was by this means that the beautiful named Cannas used for beds were produced. To have the most effective display, however, it is better to plant named varieties, which are in-

creased by dividing the clumps. These come in green and bronze foliage, and vary in color from white to rich crimson. Among the best for beds in the different colors are Pennsylvania, four and a half feet high, with green foliage and big clusters of huge scarlet flowers; King Humbert, five feet high, with fine yellow clusters; and Florence Vaughan, three and a half feet high, with fine clusters of flowers, golden yellow, spotted red.

The bed should be prepared by spading deep, at the same time incorporating well-decayed stable manure with it. See that it is in a warm, sunny exposure, and when Nature does not water copiously, add to the supply. The plants should be set 18 inches apart. They like an abundance of water. On the approach of hot weather they will be benefited by a liberal mulching of stable litter. As the flowers fade out them off, this will insure continued bloom.

When frost spoils the bed cut the tops off, after a rain, lift the clumps with a portion of the wet soil adhering, dry well, then place on a hanging shelf in a dry, frost-proof cellar. Examine them occasionally. If too dry, sprinkle; if too wet, air.

STUMBLING IS VERY BAD HABIT

Some Horses Naturally Addicted to Fault While Others Have It Thrust Upon Them by Ignorance.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.) Some horses are naturally addicted to stumbling, others acquire the fault and still others have it thrust upon them by the carelessness and ignorance of the owners.

The horse that stumbles when a colt is almost incurable. His manner of traveling may be improved to some extent with careful driving with a tight rein and the moderately high checking, but a born stumbler is a hard case to deal with.

Many horses are made to stumble by wrong shoeing. If shod heavily in front and light behind they are almost certain to acquire the habit.

Weak joints or imperfectly formed legs are also causes of stumbling. Some colts are born with marked evidence of weak knees. We know of some cases where colts at three years that have never been driven were perceptibly knee-sprung. Such an animal can never be cured of this stumbling habit.

Driving with a slack rein is another

cause of stumbling and very often the sole cause. If a horse becomes fatigued it should be kept well up on the rein if driven over rough roads. No good horseman will ever take chances of allowing his horse to fall down by driving with a slovenly rein.

Stumbling often causes bad accidents, not only to the horse, but to the occupants of the vehicle he is drawing. We once saw a fine looking carriage horse who was being driven by a woman who allowed the reins to dangle loosely in her hands, fall on the Lake Shore drive in Chicago. He stumbled for more than 15 feet before he finally fell. He overturned the carriage in his struggles and when he was assisted to his feet it was found that both knees were broken, and he was rendered useless for life.

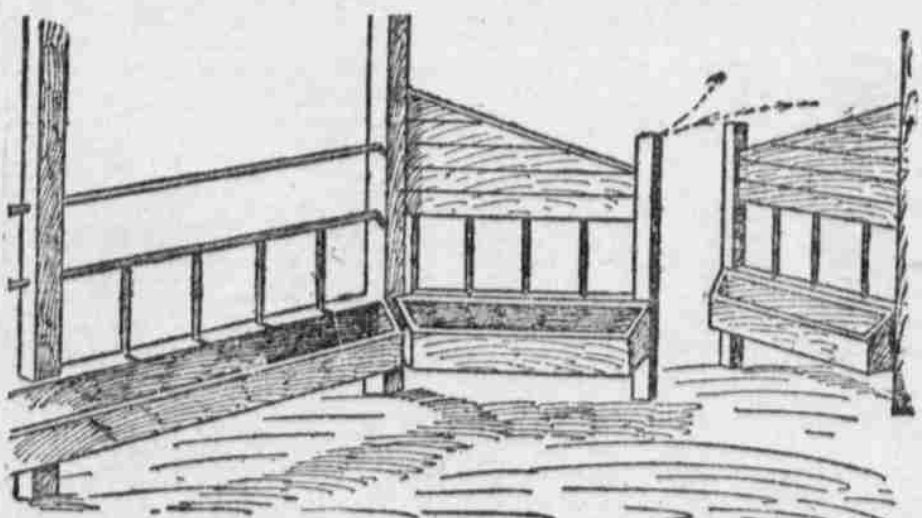
Care of Roads.

Any neighborhood that does not have enough enterprise to keep two or three long road drags going for a couple of weeks during the late fall is sadly behind the times. Farmers who are too lazy to do this ought to be compelled to drag their weary legs through the mud to town—next spring—as they surely will.

Celery in California.

Orange county, California, raised something more than 1,000 carloads of celery this season, valued at \$320,000.

COMBINED GATE-FEED TROUGH



The drawing illustrates a combined gate and feed trough that may be used to advantage where inside feeding is allowed, says the New England Homestead. The space inclosed by the troughs corresponds to an alleyway in an ordinary barn. The man doing the feeding can easily distribute feed owing to the closeness of the

troughs. By placing the swinging gates the proper distance from the doorway of the barn entering steers can easily be divided into equal lots. The divisions above each trough serve in a way as stanchions. This arrangement has been found very convenient by Langdon Brothers, extensive farmers of Winona county, Minn.

THE CHILDREN



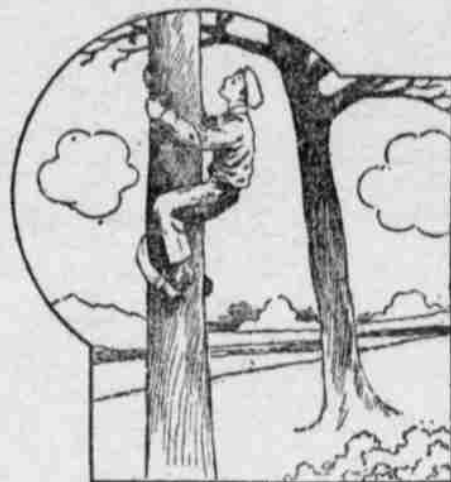
CLIMBING TREE MADE EASY

Excellent Method for Boys to Know Who Are Going Into Country Where There is Least Danger.

Sometimes a boy is caught in a predicament where climbing a tree will help him out of his difficulty. But few boys—those who live in city and town—know how to climb a tree. The ordinary method of climbing a tree is by grasping hold of the lower branches with firm hands, placing the legs about the tree's trunk and pulling up with the former and pushing up with the latter. It's nature's way of going up. But to climb the tall, straight tree which has no low branches nor rough bark, one must use another and more scientific method. Take a rag or two handkerchiefs tied together, or a towel—any such thing that may be available—and at each end tie securely a loop large enough to admit of the foot, and tight enough to prevent the foot from slipping through. Then place the towel or knotted-together kerchiefs round the tree and put your feet into the loops. The towels or rag used should be long enough to go half round the body of the tree, and must not be baggy or too long.

Now, having the towel round the tree and your feet in the loops, you embrace the trunk with your arms, raise your legs, and, pressing the towel against the trunk with your feet, stand in the loops as though they were stirrups. Then raise the body and seize the trunk higher up with the hands. Then, holding fast with the hands, you raise your legs again, drawing the foot-loops upwards, repeating the process over and over till you have gone as far up the tree as you desire.

If the boys are going into the woods where there is danger of wild animals, or even domestic ones with horns, it is well to practice this method of climbing before venturing to danger's line. And it will be well to carry along either a good strong towel, or an old



Climbing Made Easy.

piece of sack in the event of needing it. And even when not needed, it is well to have the necessary loops to practice with. One may imagine a bear or a wild bull coming after one, and do a bit of climbing to get used to it. Again one may wish to go to the top of some tall tree just for the fun of it.

HOME-MADE SLEIGHT OF HAND

Nuts and Raisins Are Emptied into Dish by Boy by Means of Clever Little Trick.

Try this trick when you have some friends to dine with you:

A boy, Tom by name, tried it, and his friends thought him very clever. Just when dinner was nearly over Bridget quietly announced that the grocer must have forgotten to bring the nuts and raisins. The company were all more or less disappointed, but Tom, the host, seemed very angry at this omission. Impatiently he said to Bridget, "Fetch me the dish in which the nuts and raisins should have been served."

Pretending to be very much annoyed, he flourished his napkin vigorously over the empty dish. Then carefully lifting the napkin, much to the surprise of all, the dish was revealed full of nuts and raisins.

This is how Tom managed the trick: He had gotten Bridget to sew two napkins together all around the edges and to slit one across the middle. The space between the napkins made a bag, into which Tom had slipped the nuts and raisins. He held the bag between his knees, with another napkin over his lap. While he was gesticulating in apparent disappointment, he had quickly changed napkins. The trick was a clever bit of home-made sleight of hand, and all shouted at Tom's cleverness.

Conundrums.

1. Why should a spider appear to have wings?
Ans.—Because he often takes a fly.
2. Why is the letter A like 12 o'clock?
Ans.—Because it is in the middle of "day."
3. Why is a pig in a parlor like a fire in a house?
Ans.—Because they both need putting out.
4. What is the difference between a sidewalk and a trolley car?
Ans.—Five cents difference.

MOTHER'S TROUBLES.



Mudder busy washing, rubbing while she sings,
Sun a-shining brightly, to dry the pitty things.
Dolly in her 'tittle bed, with not a dress to wear,
Ticking up an awful fuss just because she's dere.

Petticoats and nighties, hanging on the line,
Dresses, taps and aprons, dainty, sheer and fine.
Dolly in an awful stew, cause she tant go out,
O, the troubles Mudders have when naughty child'ren pout!
—Rosamond M. Pent in Philadelphia Record.

DOMINOES TO TELL FORTUNES

Answers May Be Regulated According to Pieces Turned Up—Much Amusement Can Be Derived.

Have you a game of dominoes? If so, you can have lots of fun when your friends come to see you. Shuffle the dominoes well and lay them face down on a smooth table. Tell your friends



Telling Fortunes With Dominoes.

to turn the dominoes and the following are what the points denote.

Double-six denotes receipt of money; will be rich.

Six-five denotes success and pleasure.

Six-four early marriage; happiness.

Six-three affection, constancy.

Six-two industrious, economical.

Six-one twice married.

Six-blank sorrow, trouble.

Five-double very lucky.

Five-four will marry poor.

Five-three eventual wealth.

Five-two love.

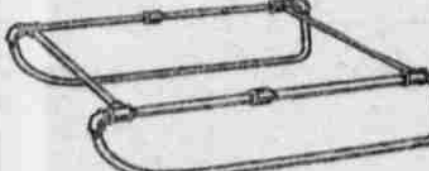
Five-one engagement; invitations.

If you know these, you can regulate your answers accordingly; no matter what points turn up, and much fun can be had.

MAKING HAND SLED OF PIPE

Can Be Constructed in Few Hours and When Complete Is Much Better Than Wooden Article.

The accompanying sketch shows how an ordinary hand sled can be made of three-quarter-inch pipe and fittings. Each runner is made of one piece of pipe bent to the proper shape. This can be accomplished by filling the pipe with melted rosin or lead, then



Parts Made of Pipe Fittings.

bending in the shape desired, and afterward removing the rosin or lead by heat. Each joint is turned up tightly and well pinned or brazed. One of the top crosspieces will need to have right-hand and left-hand threads or to be fitted with a union. Also, one of the top pieces connecting the rear part to the front part of each runner must be fitted in the same way. The top is fastened to the two crosspieces.

Such a hand sled can be made in a few hours' time and when complete is much better than a wood sled.

His Grammar Was Good.

"That old man walking along there lives over the river," said a boy, who had taken the prize for excellence in grammar.

"What?" exclaimed the father. "Have you forgotten your grammar so soon? You can say that he lives on the other side of the river, but 'over the river' is incorrect."

"I beg your pardon, father; but he does live over the river."

"Why—"
"He lives over the river, because he lives on that little house on the bridge."

No One Else to Do It.

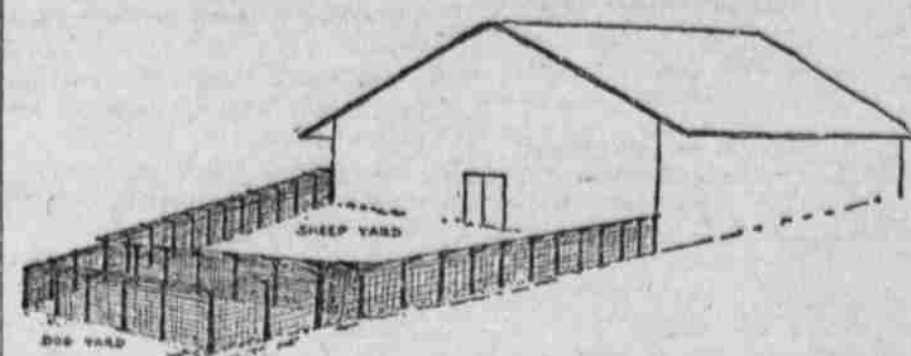
"And now," said the teacher of the juvenile Sunday school class, "why did God create this beautiful world?"
"I don't know," replied a bright little fellow, "unless there was no one else who could do it."

Make Her Spanking Easy.

The small daughter of a physician was told by her father that he would have to whip her for disobedience. "All right, papa," she said, "but please give me some chloroform first."

PROPER PROTECTION AGAINST RAVAGES OF PREDATORY DOGS

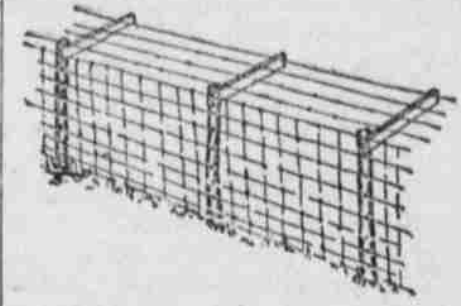
Most Successful Plan Is to Build Yard of Boards, Leaving No Cracks on Outside of Fences—Partition Is So Constructed That Animals May Jump In, But Cannot Get Out.



Novel Dog-Proof Fold—The Inclosure at the End Allows the Dog to Jump In, and There He Remains.

Wherever there are dogs and sheep together there is constant danger that the latter will at some time suffer. Sheep are so constructed that even worrying by dogs seems to shock their nervous systems to such an extent that they seldom prove profitable. In most states there are laws against depredation by dogs, but because of their construction many of them are dead letters, writes G. W. Franklin, in the Country Gentleman.

I have long since ceased to look to the law for any loss sustained in depredations by dogs. I take the privilege of protecting my sheep in my own way. My first precaution was to provide plenty of bells—as many as one to every six or ten animals. When the sheep were unduly excited the bells made such a noise that they would frighten some dogs, and would at least arouse sleepers to look after the flock. Finding that this did not work satisfactorily, however, I hung lanterns out near the sheep-yard, but the dogs became so bold they paid no attention to the lights or to the noises.



Detail Construction of Dog-Proof Fence.

My next plan was a most successful one. Attached to the sheep-barn a sheep-yard was constructed of boards, leaving no cracks on the outside fences. The partition between this yard and another adjoining was a board fence with cracks not more than three inches wide. On the outside of the sheep-yard were dog-guards which prevented a dog from jumping over into the yard. The partition fence also had guards so that a dog could not jump over from the adjoining lot. This yard also had the guard on it, but they were on the inside, so that once he had gained access a dog could not get out. The fence inclosing this yard was constructed of woven wire, with the dog-guard made of smooth wire. I soon found that dogs would jump into the contiguous lot to get into the sheep-yard; but when they had gained entrance to this inclosure they had gone to their destruction. The next morning all I had to do was to go down and gather in the depredators and give them burial. I dare say that Kenmor Farms have more dogs buried on them than any similar territory in the Union. I found that the dogs would easily gain access to the yard intended for them, but I never had one get into the sheep-yard if the dog-guards were placed correctly. The dog-guards are made by nailing arms on the top of the posts extending outward and upward at an angle of about

ten or twelve degrees. On the tops of these arms are nailed four or five barbed wires. These provide a barrier that a dog cannot scale. I have been informed that it is unlawful to kill my neighbors' dogs; but when I find a dog in my sheep pasture or on my premises I take the privilege of killing him for fear he might do some damage. Notwithstanding that it is unlawful to put out poison, I have also used a good deal of this. I have never put out any poison for dogs, however, always being careful to put it out for wolves. If a dog gets the wolf poison, I cannot help it. When I put out poison I always notify my neighbors that I have done so, and advise them to keep their dogs locked up. I use strychnin—enough to kill a dog and no more. The poison is wrapped in a small piece of tissue paper so that it will not permeate the bait and make it bitter. When it is put in a carcass of a sheep several places are doctored, and after one day the carcass is buried down below the reach of dogs or anything else. I have gathered in many dogs with poison that was put out for "wolves."

There is another method that I have found to be of some value in getting rid of dogs, but it is not to be recommended, since it is against the laws laid down by the humane society. It consists in saturating with lard a sponge about as large as a dog can swallow. When digestion takes place the grease is digested and the sponge swells up on the liquids of the stomach and can neither pass out nor be digested. The dog soon pines away and dies. No poison has been administered, for lard and sponges are not poisonous.

I am a firm believer in the justice of the sheep owner's taking this matter into his own hands, but keeping still about it, for if he is to keep on the good side of his neighbors he must never act as if he had been the means of killing their dogs. As a rule, however, a neighbor realizes that when his dog strays away on a sheep farm and is killed he has got no less than he deserves.

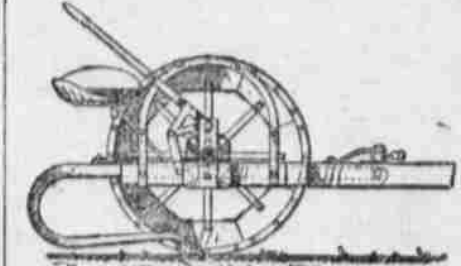
I advise all sheepmen to protect themselves against the ravages of predatory dogs. I have found that legislators avoid this question, for there are more voters who own dogs than voters who own sheep. A dog that is not kept busy will get into mischief, no matter how well he is bred. Some of the worst dogs I have ever caught are those called hunting dogs. They are sagacious and when not kept busy hunting have to work off surplus energy by chasing sheep. The shepherd dog that is reared on a sheep farm seldom gets into trouble, but if he is reared as a pet and is not made acquainted with sheep he is liable to get into mischief if not kept under proper restraint. Sheep should be kept corralled at night, thereby removing one of the dangers that are liable to come to a flock. Daytime depredations are scarce unless a sheep pasture is an outlying one.

IMPROVEMENT ON POTATO DIGGER

Implement Drawn Through Field With Blade at Sufficient Depth to Pass Below Tubers.

In describing an improvement on a potato digger, the invention of William St. Dairy of Findlay, O., the Scientific American says:

In operation the digger is drawn through the field, with a blade or plow a sufficient depth to pass below the potatoes, and as it moves along



Potato Digger.

the potatoes are lifted from the ground. During transportation the plow may be lifted out of the ground, and by means of the lever it may be held at any desired depth. The arrangement of the beam of the plow moving between the frame sections prevents any lateral swinging movement of the said beam with respect to the frame, so that the plow is held directly in the row. The width of the felly of the wheel is greater than that of the rings.

HOW TO MAKE OLD FARM PAY

Stop Starving and Go to Feeding All Cultivated Land If Amount Is Only Five Acres.

It is a commentary on American agriculture that in certain sections there are farms of 100 or more acres that can be bought for less than the first cost of the buildings, and in some cases for less than the policy insurance companies have placed on said buildings.

The old farm doesn't pay. Its forests have been destroyed. Its soil has been tilled, and tilled till it would bear tillage no longer and nature went out on one of her inevitable strikes.

Can the old farm be made to pay? It certainly can not, by the old methods.

The old owner may remain, but the old farming must stop.

Here are some suggestions. Put 50 acres of the 100 to growing trees.

These may be forest trees or in part an apple orchard.

If the farm has any smooth level land, do the cultivation on that.

Stop starving and go to feeding all cultivated land if the amount is no more than five acres.

For some crops, as potatoes, on impoverished soil, success is being had by the judicious use of commercial fertilizers.