CORNER FOR THE JUNIORS

GIRLS.

"One boy is better than three girls."
Re ruse is German adage old
Old, and as false as old, I deem.
Like most things in proverbs told.

For sex has naught to do with worth.
The word sends both the boy and girl.
The strength of one like rugged rock,
The other's grace like jasmine pearl.

Ah, dark the world if all the girls,
With cow cheeks and eyes aglow,
Were to be banished from its bounds,
Full dark and drear, indeed, I trow!

God bless you for your sunny smiles.
Your pleasant ways and cheerful mien!
Blessed are ye! what today you are
And will be in the coming days.

And now your lives as fruitful be
In things divine and noble deeds do.
That all who read the German gibe
May own it (as it is) untrue.

LIVELY TOY QUITE AMUSING

Horse and Manikins Move as Platform is Drawn About Room—Driver Imitates Man.

A toy that will afford lots of amusement for the little people is that designed by a Michigan man. When the platform is drawn about the room the figures on it move in lifelike fashion. All four legs of the horse are pivoted to his body. The arms and legs of the driver are jointed and the man in the back of the vehicle is not only jointed wherever he can be, but is suspended from a swivel on an elastic band. The turning of the rear wheels actuates mechanism which in

Lively, Amusing Toy.

turn moves the horse's legs backward and forward and instills life into the manikins. The driver leans forward and pulls backward, giving a good imitation of a man urging his horse to greater speed, while his legs kick about in lively fashion. The man in the back jumps up and down with great agility.

THREE NOVEL EUROPEAN TOPS

Top-Spinning Is One of Oldest Games—Now Will Stand as Much Betting as American.

Top-spinning is one of the oldest games in the world. It has been played for thousands of years, and there are few even of the savage nations of Asia and Africa who don't play the game with some sort of top. Long before Columbus sailed for America the Indians knew a good deal about tops and top-spinning. The Sioux whittled them out of bits of wood, something like the one shown in the picture. In Ceylon, Siam and China nearly all the tops are so flat that they whistle or sing when they spin. The ordinary top made by the American boy is probably the most popular in the world. It is extensively used in England and in all of her colonies.

Three Queer Tops.

The German top is larger and more expensive, and the French top is quite different in shape. None of them will stand the pegging and battering of the stubby little American top.

Nelson Was Mystified.

Little Nelson, who was two and a half years old when his little baby brother came into the world, was wakened up one night by the baby's crying. He was very much mystified, and calling to his father said: "Papa, dat complain is 'kayro' in the other room."

STRAWBERRIES MAKE GOOD ADDITION TO VEGETABLES

Up-to-Date Methods of Growing This Luscious Fruit Insures Sure and Large Returns—Growers and Housekeepers Want Choice Berries.

(By F. E. SEATTY.)

The grower of strawberries is more sure of a good annual profit from strawberries than from almost any other crop. Growing strawberries are the hardest, as well as most profitable of all fruits, and it does not require any more labor to grow strawberries of high quality than it does to grow vegetables of the same class.

In the growing of strawberries, you have practically no plant enemies—insects or fungi—to contend with, provided you follow up-to-date methods. Rotation of crops, full plowing, harrowing and repeated cultivation, strong, healthy plants, mowing off the foliage and burning immediately after the last picking, are the things which may make spraying unnecessary.

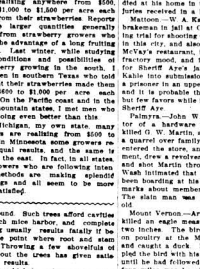
Crop rotation is a necessity with any kind of farming. It encourages a healthy and productive condition of the soil.

Plowing discourages all kinds of underground insect, such as the white grub, root-maggot and wire worm.

Thorough cultivation keeps down weeds and other enemies of growth, which if allowed to grow, would afford a breeding and hibernating place for insects.

Strong, healthy plants insure against such enemies as the crown miner, crown-borer, root-borer and white, as well as fungous diseases.

Mowing off the foliage and burning



Faced—Poorly Packed.

after the fruit is picked, destroys insects and fungi germs.

I explain these essential features to indicate their importance.

To work among strawberries (edit our). Well, yes, a trifle so, but no more so than working among vegetables, and not nearly so tedious as with other small varieties of vegetables, such as onions, radishes and lettuce. It takes patience to work with any kind of fruit or vegetables, and like the doctor, the more patience we have the more money we make.

Soil which has grown vegetables is generally sufficiently fertile to produce a good crop of strawberries. But if soil which potatoes have been grown is used.

Strawberries and vegetables can be sold from the same wagon at the same price. Both will have berries of high quality it will aid you in selling your vegetables, because fancy grocers always will go to the lookout for fruit for the choicest quality. The idea is one of the commission merchant, and if you sell to private families this will find the housekeeper wants the best.

To the gardener who has never grown strawberries, he would like to combine them with his vegetable business, let me suggest that you begin in a small way, and increase your acreage as experience and local conditions may justify you in doing.

Many commercial gardeners know from experience that strawberries make a profitable addition to their vegetable business. No other crop with which I have ever had any experience will yield as many dollars per acre, and do it in as short a time, as strawberries. It is not an uncommon thing to get reports from growers who are realizing anywhere from $600, $800, $1,000 to $1,500 per acre each year. On the Pacific coast and in the inter-mountain states, I met men who were doing even better than this.

In Michigan, my own state, many growers are realizing from $500 to $800; in Minnesota some growers report equal results, and the same is true in the east. In fact, in all states the growers who are following intensive methods are making splendid showings and all seem to be more than satisfied.

MICE INJURE FOREST TREES

Little Rodents Gnaw Bark of Catalpa and Mulberry Which Frequently Results in a Complete Girdle.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

For some years catalpa, mulberry and other trees commonly grown have suffered considerable injury by the attacks of field mice. These rodents gnaw the bark about the base of the trees to a greater or less degree, which frequently results in a complete girdle. When girdling occurs below the root crown the trees usually die.

There are no practical means of exterminating field mice, although certain operations are helpful in preventing their attacks. Mice seldom are observed that injury is greater and more extensive where weeds, stubble or debris of any kind lies close to the trees. Material of this character affords a harboring place, from under which cover mice prefer to operate. All grass or mulch material of any kind should be raked away from the trees for a radius of at least two feet, leaving the ground as bare as possible. Where mulch culture is used a foot or two above each tree should be left bare. Injury is more severe on those trees whose root systems set forth on the ground. Such trees afford cavities in which mice harbor, and complete girdling usually results fatally if below the point where root and stem join. Throwing a few shovefuls of dirt about the trees has given satisfactory results.

Trees which have been more than half girdled should be cut off an inch above the root collar and sprouts allowed to grow from the stumps. In the case of trees over three or four years of age all sprouts should be pollinated to stand the first season, and after the second thrifty may be removed the following fall. In some cases all but the most thrifty may be allowed to form a foot high. The one remaining must be staked in order to prevent its breaking off or becoming distorted.

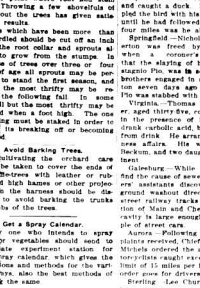
Avoid Barking Trees.

In Southern fruit orchard can should be taken to cover the ends of the wire-trees with leather or rubber, and blocks between the wire portions on the harness should be disinfected by painting the trunks and limbs of the trees.

Get a Spray Calendar.

Every one who intends to spray fruits or vegetables should send for their state experiment station for their spray calendar which gives the proper time and methods for the various sprays, also the best methods of applying the same.

"SELECTION" IS THE KEY-NOTE



"Selection" is the keynote of progress the world over. It is by the process of "natural selection" that, in all her kingdoms, nature constantly improves upon the quality of her gifts to men. It is by selection that the speed of the race horse has been developed; that, in the place of the inferior cattle of our sires, we have the superb Jerseys, Guernseys and Herefords of today. Selection has given us the Berkshire, the Poland China and the Chester White hog in the place of the razor-back of old. Equally, selection is capable of giving us better crops and better fields. If only farmers are intelligently and persistently pursue. The illustration above Cute Tit, a prize-winning Jersey

Disbourage Mice and Rabbits.

Care should be taken to remove all weeds, grass or other litter which might harbor mice. It is frequently necessary to protect the trees trunks with wire netting, tar paper, or thin boards to protect them from mice or rabbits.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Mattoon.—Pleading guilty to a charge of assault with intent to commit murder, W. A. Kabel, son of a prominent minister of Charleston, was sentenced to Pontiac state prison.

St. Elmo.—In a few hours after meeting some canned tomatoes, Miss Elsie Miller died of ptomaine poisoning.

Streator.—The body of a dog which ran through a principal street of the city, biting several children and dogs, was sent to Chicago, and an examination showed that the animal was suffering with rabies.

Edwardsville.—Mrs. Ernest of Police Stubbs, while acting as a peacemaker at a dog fight, was attacked by the infuriated animals, who resented his intrusion, and was compelled to use both his pistol and club to disperse the canines.

Streator.—The curtain dropped on the act of the famous Illinois pearl case when Barney J. Wood of Chillicothe paid to George W. Smith $2,750, and all court proceedings were dropped.

Peoria.—Policemen from the central station were called upon to cope with an unusual situation in which six little children and a fox terrier suffering from the rabies figured.

Rock Island.—News was received here of the sudden death of Lieut. Col. F. E. Hobbs, commandant of the Rock Island arsenal, which passed away at Hot Springs Ark. Colonel Hobbs was 55 years old.

Rockford.—After six weeks of intense suffering, Adelbert C. Bennett died at his home in Rockford from injuries received in a hunting accident.

Springfield.—Kate Kaiser, the flagbrakeman in jail at Charleston, awaiting trial for shooting Officer Ed White in the city, and who, in connection up McKay's restaurant, indulged in a reckless spree, was taken to Springfield for Sheriff Ayre's jail force to club Kaiser into insensibility, and place a prisoner in an upper cell of the jail, and it is probable that he will enjoy but few favors while in the custody of Sheriff Ayre.

Palmyra.—John W. Wash, proprietor of a restaurant, was shot and killed by Ed Martin, a clerk, following a quarrel over hashing at Palmyra. Wash entered the store, and after an argument, drew a revolver from his pocket and shot Martin through the heart. Wash informed Martin, who had been boarding at his house, made remarks about members of his family. The slain man was single and about 40 years old.

Mount Vernon.—Arthur McLaughlin killed an eagle measuring seven feet two inches. The bird swooped down on poultry at the McLaughlin home and caught a duck. McLaughlin grappled the bird with his shotgun, but not until he had followed it and fought it for half an hour. The eagle is still in

Springfield.—Nicholas Pio of Riverton was recently by the authorities when a complaint was filed that the slaying of his brother, Constantino Pio, on Christmas day. The brothers engaged in a fight at Riverton some days ago when Constantino Pio was stabbed with an umbrella.

Virginia.—Thomas McLean, a farmer aged thirty-five, committed suicide in the presence of his family. He drank carbolic acid, being desperately from drink. He arranged all his business affairs. His wife, Elizabeth Beckum, and two daughters, are prominent

Galesburg.—While excavating to find the cause of sewer trouble plumbers unearthed discovered an underground washout directly under the street railway tracks at the intersection of Main and Cherry streets. The cavity is large enough to hold a couple of street cars.

Aurora.—Following dozens of complaints received by Police Captain Michels ordered the arrest of all motorcyclists caught exceeding the speed limit of 15 miles per hour. The same order goes for drivers of automobiles.

Sterling.—Lee Church, 8, was crushed in an attempt to protect the property of the Clyde Brewing company, who are works on East Third street, received a severe pounding by three men, and was taken into custody by the police, but on explaining the situation he was released. The property owner

that was made in the entire affair was the cause of the bad mixing, and the scared and hurried fear that Lee was wearing.

Mount Carmel.—Rev. W. Kilburn pastor of the Christian church in this city, has resigned, to take effect June 1. He will go to Sullivan, at which place he will have a larger charge than he has had here. Rev. J. W. Kilburn has been pastor of the church here for the past five years.

Aurora.—Edward Klink twenty two year old son of G. Klink, an Aurora news dealer, was drowned while from the Lake head Inwport. Pla. The young man, who was associated with his father in the circulation of newspapers in Aurora and vicinity was in a small boat, which overturned

Edinburg.—For the first time in 20 years the Edinburg Herald failed of publication. The editor, Frank Kaneenut, who has edited the paper consantly from the beginning of its existence until now, and who does all the work in the office, is seriously embezzlement, remaining in the county jail until the May term of court.

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