room and kitchen, is a garden porch that will be a delightful spot for the serving of open-air meals. We have shown this porch with a pergola roof, the projecting beams of which will form a support for vines; but unlike the ordinary pergola, these beams are covered by a solid flooring which is surmounted by a parapet or rail to form a sleeping balcony, as seen in the second floor plan.

Turning again to the first floor, one finds an unusually compact arrangement of pantry and kitchen, the latter lighted by double windows at the side and rear, and both rooms being provided with sinks and dressers. A wide opening from the kitchen leads to the side entry from which the cellar stairs descend below the main flight. This entry is shut off from the central hall so that the service portion of the house is effectively separated from the living rooms, and at the same time is near enough for the maid to have ready access to both stairs and front entrance.

Four bedrooms and a bathroom are planned upstairs, with good-sized closets, those of the front room being provided beneath the slope of the roof on each side of the dormer, and being lighted by small windows in the side walls. As the chimney of the living-room fireplace is carried up the front wall of the dormer, it projects into the bedroom and forms a sort of recess on each side that suggests the building of window-seats as we have indicated on the plan. The right-hand bedroom at the rear has access to the sleeping porch, and the bedroom on the other side will probably be used as the maid's room, being so near to the head of the stairs and therefore to the kitchen. The attic, which is lighted by small double casements in each gable, is intended merely for storage and is reached by the staircase next to the linen closet.

Altogether, this house, like the one shown before it, should prove extremely livable, and the arrangement in each case is so simple that the housework will prove comparatively light.

And in this connection it is well to remember that a great deal depends on the quality of the floors and interior trim; for there are few things more annoying to the housewife and maid than badly constructed and poorly finished woodwork. Naturally the plainer the trim is in design and the smoother in finish, the easier it will be to keep fresh and clean.

STRAWBERRY GROWING COMPARATIVELY EASY AND PROFITABLE: BY W. H. BURKE

STRAWBERRIES add, to the romance of their cultivation, the pleasant fact that they are capable of producing the most lucrative crop per acre that is associated with modern horticulture. Moreover they are not a difficult crop to handle, uncertain in results: complete success can be expected by the strawberry grower even if only the most rudimentary rules are followed. Three things, however, are essential for their satisfactory production: a friable, well-fertilized, perfectly drained soil; the selection of vigorous plants of proper sex grown by reliable specialists, and consistent and intelligent cultivation.

Soil that will produce good potatoes, onions or corn will mature excellent strawberries and the cultivation of the latter is no greater tax on time or energy than that which must be devoted to any one of the garden crops. But soils vary greatly even in limited areas. Also it is true that strawberries will grow in sandy wastes, in flat prairie land composed sometimes of gumbo and that they will peep out from under the Alpine snows with the first promise of spring. Strawberries may live in these places, but they will bear abundantly only when fed with the elements necessary to their full vigor.

There are three principal plant-food elements and long experimentation has shown that wherever they are present in recognized proportions in the soil, the results are likely to be secured. They should occur in about the following proportions: Nitrogen 3 per cent., phosphorus 9 per cent., and potassium 7 per cent. One of the most acceptable forms of fertility for the strawberry is barnyard manure especially that which comes from the horse stable. In the average soil this fertilizer makes an almost perfectly balanced ration for strawberries. If at the outset the soil is in fairly good condition a light dressing of this fertilizer plowed or spaded under in the spring becomes the first step toward skillful preparation. As soon as this is accomplished, hard-wood ashes should be scattered at the rate of 50 bushels to the acre or muriate of potash at the rate of 200 pounds per acre. Later the ground should
be harrowed thoroughly. In the strawberry bed the soil should be as fine as it can be made, and without attention to this matter success is not to be expected.

The original texture of the soil must primarily be taken into account; that in which sand predominates and wherein the particles are coarse should be thoroughly compacted so that the plants may rest in a firm and close fitting garment of earth. Invariably the roots must have ample air that nothing shall interfere with the respiratory processes. On the other hand they must not be given too much air and when they are set in a loose coarse soil this thought is to be borne in mind. Before plants are set in open soil, it should be rolled; clayey soil calls for just the reverse treatment. The latter needs no rolling; for its nature is compact, instead it requires to be frequently stirred that a sufficient amount of air may be admitted to the roots of the plants.

In selecting plants after the soil is prepared, it is the part of wisdom to bear in mind the question of sex, there being a very distinct division between the varieties. The bloom of the pistillate or female varieties is infertile, bearing no pollen whatever. In order, therefore, to secure fruit from pistillate varieties they should be set in close proximity to those that are bisexual or stamineate. The bisexual plants, as the name indicates, are both pistillate and stamineate and therefore fertilize not only their own blossoms but those of the pistillate varieties set near to them. It is only through the pursuance of this course of planting that a full crop of fruit can be secured. Unfortunately many nurseriesmen fail to advise their patrons concerning this fact and as a result the frequent setting together of only pistillate varieties disheartens the grower when he learns that his plants are non-fruit-bearing.

The next step in strawberry culture is the setting out of the plants. The roots should be cut back to at least one-third of their length and a large amount of the foliage removed. Care should be taken in placing the roots in the ground to see that the aperture is ample for their reception and that their tip ends point directly downward. Curly roots mean a long delay in development, while those badly curled may prove altogether fatal to strong growth. Another disadvantage of this pruning system lies in the fact that when the roots are cut back the wounds callous and innumerable small feeding roots start and begin at once to draw on the elementary plant food under the soil. The thriftiest and most productive plants are those that have been assisted to make an early start.

In the actual setting of the plants various tools are used. Some growers prefer a
spade, but in cases where large numbers are to be set out the hand dibble is an instrument permitting more rapid work. The dibble should be forced into the ground to a depth of about six inches, then pressed from the setter so as to make a sufficiently large opening to take in the roots of the plants. These roots are then placed in the opening before the dibble is redrawn, after which it must be removed and thrust into the soil about two inches from the opening and drawn firmly toward the setter. This act presses the earth firmly against the roots of the plant. The soil should then be made firm with the fingers about the crown of the plant. During the entire process of setting, the plants should be carried in a hooded basket to protect them from the air.

The cultivation of strawberry plants should begin within 24 hours after they are set, repeated every 8 or 10 days thereafter and always as soon after a rain as is practicable. Cultivation should not immediately follow a rain, as the soil is then not sufficiently dry to crumble. Never should cultivation proceed if the soil is in either a sticky or pasty condition. A sign moreover that should not be overlooked is the tendency of the soil to form a crust making the escape of moisture by capillary action very rapid. By promptly “fining” the surface of the soil with a cultivator or hoe a

NECESSARY CULTIVATION OF A STRAWBERRY PLANTING THAT THE DUST MULCH MAY BE RETAINED, THEREBY PREVENTING THE ESCAPE OF MOISTURE.

dust mulch is created destroying capillary action and retaining thus the greater part of the moisture.

The circle of success in strawberry culture may be described as follows, since continuous and vigorous growth is apparent when the digestive organs of the plant are in healthy condition. To keep, therefore, the digestive organs in healthy condition bacteria must be active; to keep bacteria active an abundance of air must be supplied by cultivation; the dust mulch formed by cultivation retains moisture; moisture dissolves plant food; plant food makes the roots active; active roots build up heavy foliage; heavy foliage insures perfect digestion and the latter develops a heavy fruit bud system and maintains continuous growth.

One of the important acts in the handling of strawberry plants is to pinch off the blossoms the first season after setting, as no fruit should be permitted to grow on spring set plants the first season. As far as labor is involved this is a simple matter, but it is of the utmost importance in the securing of large returns from a venture in strawberry growing.

In the autumn, plants in northern latitudes should be mulched. A light covering
of straw is usually placed over them then as well as between the rows. In more southerly climes where alternate freezing and thawing does not occur, the mulch is only used between the rows. Clean straw or some other form of mulch should invariably be used, to the end that the fruit can lie on a clean floor and thus be kept free from all grit and sand.

In behalf of strawberry growing it can be said that it is one of the safest and surest forms of horticulture. In a recent autumn when early heavy frosts destroyed vineyards and peach orchards and killed many hardy apple trees over a large section of the North Central States, barely any damage was done the strawberry plants.

PLANTS CLEANLY CULTIVATED AND SHOWING A HEAVY DUST MULCH ABOUT THEIR BASE.

No other crop gives such quick and large returns in proportion to the investment involved and no other crop is more universally successful. One does not have to go to the Gulf or to the Pacific Coast to engage in strawberry culture. In no year has there been on the markets of this country even a half sufficient supply of high-grade strawberries. Naturally it is the high quality fruit that commands the best price and offers a limitless field for enterprise. Success will crown the intelligent labor of any man or woman who will observe simple rules in the production of this highly popular fruit.

Likewise must the grounds and gardens of suburban homes make comfortable their inhabitants, otherwise they are avoiding a just responsibility. Therefore the bird houses seen in this exhibition are scientifically made showing among the newer ones homes for chickadees, for flycatchers and woodpeckers. A bird’s automatic food table contrived as a weather vane, sparrow traps and other devices are here set up in the notches of trees or else placed on poles as their need demands. Kennels for dogs, hen houses, a sand house and a play house for children are among other furnishings designed to make the home grounds livable.

Distinctive in this exhibition is a portable house, one more attractive even than those which the imagination depicts.

Altogether a visit to this exhibition is likely to prove fertile in a knowledge of modern up-to-date articles that are becoming a part of American outdoor life.