PROPER HANDLING OF APPLE CROP AFTER IT HAS BEEN PICKED

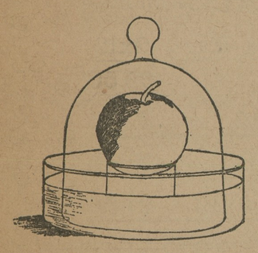
Respiration of Fruit After Taken From Tree Bears Important Relation to Their Keeping Qualities—Keep About Twice as Long in Cold Storage as in Ordinary Cellar.

(By F. W. MORSE, New Hampshire.)

The respiration of animals is a well know action and the necessity for it in the living creature is fully appreciated.

The fact that plants and parts of plants must also breathe is not so commonly understood. Yet all living cells, whether a part of animal matter or vegetable matter, must have oxygen to keep them alive and they give up carbon dioxide and water as a result of the action of the oxygen on some of their contents. Parts of plants when cut off from the main stem do not die at once, and must continue to breathe. This is true, whether the severed part is a leafy branch, a fruit or a root; but some parts live much longer after removal than others, and the apple continues to breathe for many weeks after it has been picked from the tree.

The chief products of respiration are the same in plants as in animals, namely, carbon dioxide (commonly called carbonic acid) and water. These products can be easily shown by placing one or more apples in a glass jar and covering it tightly. In a few hours a dewy film will cover the inner surface of the jar, that in time will collect into drops which will trickle to the bottom. On opening the jar, a little clear lime-water may be poured into it without touching the fruit, and



Testing an Apple.

the lime-water will be seen to turn milky, just as it will if an animal's breath is forced through it.

The taking up of oxygen from the air can also be readily shown by the following interesting experiment.

In a large basin partially filled with water set a small support on which is placed an apple and a small open dish containing a solution of caustic soda or potash. The apple should not touch the water nor the caustic solution. Cover the support and its contents by a large bell glass or wide jar with its mouth wholly in the water. Now as the apple breathes in the oxygen of the air, and breathes out carbonic acid, the latter will be absorbed by the caustic solution while water will rise in the jar to fill the space made vacant by the removal of the oxygen. Finally the water will fill about one-fifth of the air space originally present and remain stationary, because the oxygen is all used.

Respiration, whether in animals or in plants, causes a destruction of matter in the cells much like the destruction of wood in a stove, and the rate at which this destruction goes on can be measured by determining the amount of carbonic acid that is breathed out in a given length of time.

Fruit, after having been picked from the tree is in the condition of a starving animal. Its cells still keep up respiration with nothing in the way of food to make good the losses produced by the action. Since apples and other fruits have no body heat to maintain, the breathing process is not so active as in animals, and they may last months after being picked from the tree. Yet there is a steady, continuous loss in weight as the weeks go by, although the fruit is sound and firm.

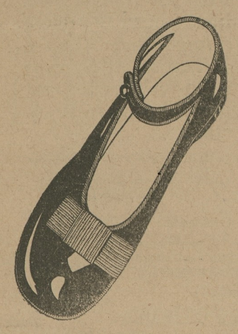
Respiration is partly a chemical reaction, and in apples, like most chemical solutions in the laboratory, it grows more rapid as the fruit becomes warmer, and slowed down when the fruit is cooled.

It is frequently the case that warm days with temperatures of 70 degrees occur late in the fall, and sometimes continue for a considerable period. Fancy apples intended for long keeping in cold storage should be cooled as soon as possible and kept cold. The breathing process is at the expense of cell contents and must weaken the keeping qualities as it goes on. And this destructive action is from four to six times as fast out of cold storage as inside it.

Another fact in connection with the respiration is important. It is not stopped in cold storage, but simply slowed. Apples cannot be kept indefinitely, but kept about twice as long in cold storage as in a cool cellar.

Draft Horses.

A good horseman never trots a draft horse, even when he has no load. That is not what they are for. Some degree of speed is desirable, however, even in a drafter, and the fast walk is not only the proper thing, but the only speeding to which a heavy draft horse should be permitted.



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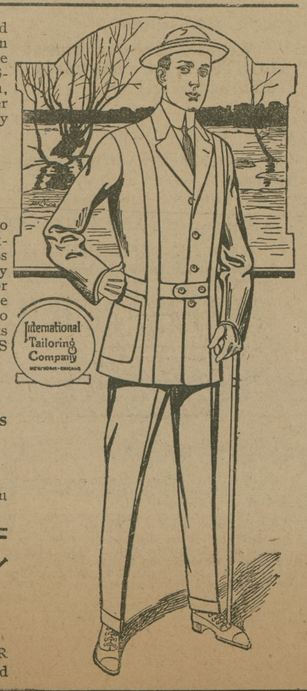

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DODGED A LEGACY

Romance of a Soldier of the French Foreign Legion.

CAST ASIDE MANY MILLIONS.

This Singular Titled Austrian Refused to Disclose His Identity When His Good Fortune Became Known, and His Fate Is an Unsolved Mystery.

The French Foreign Legion is the most picturesque military organization in the world. It is the refuge of men of all nations gone wrong through impulse or misfortune who wish to bury themselves in oblivion while fighting to regain an honorable place in the world of life and activity.

The rank and file of the corps is composed of princes, dukes, marquises, counts and viscounts, generals and officers of all grades, all arms, of the armies of all countries, magistrates, financiers, diplomats, lawyers and professional functionaries of all sorts; honest adventurers who simply want to "see the world;" the neurasthenic, the disheartened, the unemployed; those who, having lost everything but honor or having lost honor itself, would make a new start.

All this diverse human metal, thrown into the melting pot together, is eventually molded into that brave, stoic, loyal, devoted, patient and tenacious prototype of the man of arms, the Legionary.

Of the Foreign Legion a thousand romantic tales are told, of which the following true story may be taken as an example:

One day General Bruneau, commander of the legion, received a registered letter, postmarked Vienna and signed by the representative of a well known Austrian detective agency, to the following effect:

Monsieur le General—Will you kindly inform me if a young man of Austro-Hungarian nationality, supposed to have enlisted in the Foreign Legion under the name of Justus Perth, is now at Sadia? You will understand the interest we have in finding him when I inform you confidentially that in consequence of unforeseen happenings he has become, without his knowledge or expectation, sole heir to a fortune of 12,000,000 crowns. Inclosed is a photograph taken when he was a student at the University of Prague.

The photograph showed a stocky youth of perhaps twenty to twenty-two years of age and whose somewhat beefy face was fringed with precocious whiskers. He wore eyeglasses, which made it difficult to judge of the form and shade of his eyes.

General Bruneau's first step was to have his secretary-adjutant search the enlistment rolls for the name of Justus Perth. No such name appeared. Then he had all the Austrians of the detachment line up and scanned their faces in the hope of identifying the original of the photograph. Only two, both of whom were recent arrivals, showed possible traits of resemblance, and these in a very imperfect degree.

These two Austrians were closely examined by Dhuermer, the secretary, who spoke the German language fluently. Both denied stubbornly that they had ever used or heard of the name of Justus Perth.

"Possibly it may loosen your tongues," pursued the secretary, "if I tell you why the general is looking for this Perth. The fellow has just inherited 12,000,000 crowns. Now, is either one of you Justus Perth?"

"Nein."

"Nein."

"Send them back to their companies. It is of no use," said General Bruneau.

Time passed and the incident had been forgotten when in 1902 there came to Bruneau a formidable looking envelope bearing the government seal of the minister of foreign affairs. It inclosed a letter which drew from the officer an exclamation of surprise.

This letter was a diplomatic paraphrase of the former inquiry by the Vienna secret service agency regarding Justus Perth. It insisted upon further investigation, to be conducted with more care and discretion than in the previous instance. Furthermore, the commandant was confidentially advised that "Justus Perth" was only a fictitious name and that the real title of the person to be found at any price was Count Otto von X.

Another photograph, more recent than the one which had accompanied the first inquiry, was appended.

"No sooner did I set eyes on this photograph," continued Bruneau, "than I made the astounding discovery that the Count Otto von X., the pseudo Justus Perth, was none other than the secretary-adjutant, Dhuermer, who had so energetically questioned the two bewildered Austrians called up before me on the former occasion!

"My course was now simple enough. Shortly after that first interrogatory our secretary-interpreter, Dhuermer, had been transferred to Tonkin, in regular course of the annual relief of the battalions serving there. This information I wired to headquarters.

"Next day the response came:

"Legionary Dhuermer sent home account of health, en route Singapore.

"Another cipher telegram to the French consul at Singapore brought the following:

"Legionary Dhuermer, alias Count Otto von X., disappeared from transport steamer, roadstead of Singapore; cannot be found.

"And the mystery remains unsolved to this day."

Around their campfires in the Sahara what tales might not be told if ever these silent, impassive Trappists of action should but speak their stories!—Los Angeles Tribune.

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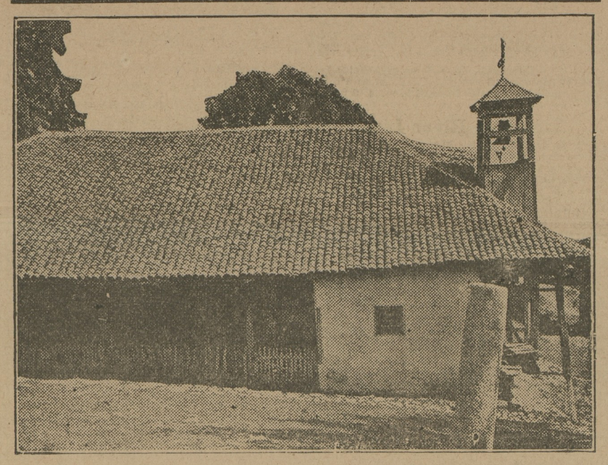
M. F. SHEPPARD,
Crumpton, Md.

mar7-w

Ancient Church in Bulgaria



This is not a photograph of a barn or stable, as might be supposed, but of a typical old Bulgarian church. It is attached to an ancient monastery situated on the slopes of Mount Vitosch, only a few miles from Sofia. The interior of the [illegible] more crude and primitive than the exterior. The floor is of [illegible] very irregular manner. The walls are de[illegible]

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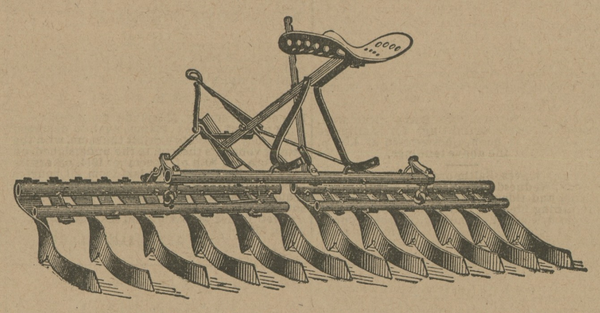

Fig. 1.—A Smoothing Harrow for Use Immediately After Plowing and to Be Followed by the Pulverizing Harrow.

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Everything good to eat can be obtained at our parlors, and there is no better way to spend a few minutes these warm evenings than to come with your friends and hear the good music while you eat. New records every week.

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The Ladies' Store

CHESTERTOWN, - - MARYLAND

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