

long season), William Belt (especially good for the table), and Aroma. It will be news, and good news, to many people that it is now possible to have high-class strawberries in the fall, as well as in the spring; and the home gardener will be especially glad to learn that he can have a good crop the same season in which he sets out his plants. One of the vexatious things about strawberry-growing always has been the fact that the first crop could not be enjoyed until the second season. The fall strawberry, which has been perfected only after much experimenting, makes the long-desired possible.

The history of the fall-bearing berry, as a practical proposition, dates back not more than twelve or thirteen years. In 1899, Samuel Cooper, of Western New York, found a plant of the old Bismarck variety which, with its eleven runners, was bearing a full crop of fruit in the fall. He transferred it to the family garden, and by cultivation developed a variety that retained the characteristic named above. It was named the "Pan-American," and all fall-bearing strawberries of any value are descended from this parent. Some of the seedings of the Pan-American are the Americus, Francis, Superb, Productive and Rockhills 6, 9 and 16. All have their peculiar advantages, varying as much as do different kinds of summer-bearing strawberries. This plant should be set early in the spring, in the usual way, placing it carefully so that the bud is just above the surface of the ground, and the roots well spread out. If allowed to grow naturally, it would blossom from May until winter, and would bear a scattering crop of fruit from June until the frosts come. In order, however, to get a large and profitable crop at any given time, it is necessary to remove the blossoms up to within three weeks of the date selected. It is best to remove the blossoms up to August 1; the result will be a large crop from the last week in August until the ground freezes.

Unlike other strawberries, this variety bears its best crop the same year that the plants are set out. It is very hardy; frosts have no effect on the fruit, but tend to help matters by killing the later blossoms. The size, color and flavor of the fruit is largely determined by the weather. If it is warm and sunshiny, an excellent product will be the result. Too much rain is far from being desirable, though it is well to keep the garden watered on hot days. The same conditions that make a good crop of strawberries in June are necessary for a fall crop.

A farmer in Western New York set out five hundred plants about May 1, 1910. They were carefully tended, and the blossoms picked off until August 1. They were covered with blossoms and green berries by August 15, and on August 23 four quarts of ripe berries were gathered for exhibition purposes. During the week from September 11 to 17, one hundred quarts were picked and placed on the market. The largest single picking was on September 28, when forty-eight quarts were gathered; and the last few berries were picked on November 11. The total yield was four hundred quarts, from five hundred plants and their runners; and was at the rate of about ten thousand quarts to the acre. These fig-

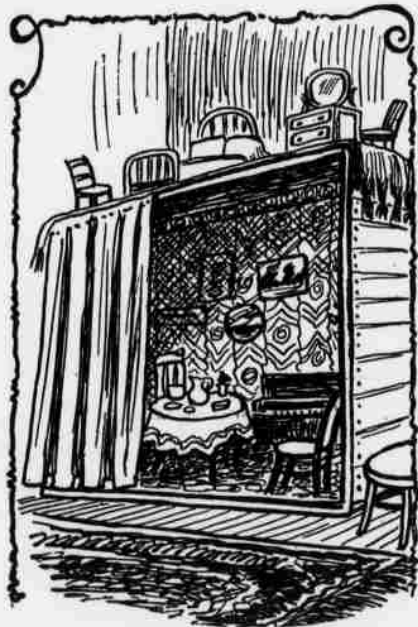
ures will give the would-be cultivator an idea of the possibilities of this new and remarkable industry.

By allowing the fruit to set at different periods, a few days apart, it is possible to have a very long season of strawberry enjoyment in the fall, lasting even until winter has commenced. The idea that luscious strawberries can be had for practically six months of the year is one that makes a very strong appeal to all who regard this as one of the best of fruits—and who does not?

Two-Story Play House for Girls

Two little girls begged their mother to make them a "sure-enough two-story" playhouse that might stand in the corner of her sewing-room. The indulgent mother, after racking her brain for a plan, suddenly conceived the following one: In the barn she found an old empty piano box. This she had swept and washed very clean. The sides which were to serve as walls and ceiling to the play-house were papered with some bits of bright paper left from the front hall of the home. The side of the box which was to serve as a floor was carpeted. Then the box was carried into mamma's sewing-room and placed in one corner near to a window, the one open side fronting the middle of the room. Across the open side was a half-drawn curtain (see accompanying illustration), and inside the box was furnished to represent a play-parlor. A little table, two chairs, a toy piano and a doll's sofa were there, leaving plenty of room for the two little housekeepers. On the top of the box a bedroom was arranged. A rug covered the top of the box, which was the bedroom floor. In one corner—against the wall—stood a toy bed, beside it a little dresser. Two chairs and a washstand completed the bedroom furnishing. The second floor was reached by stepping on a stool, then on a chair, and from the chair to the bedroom floor.

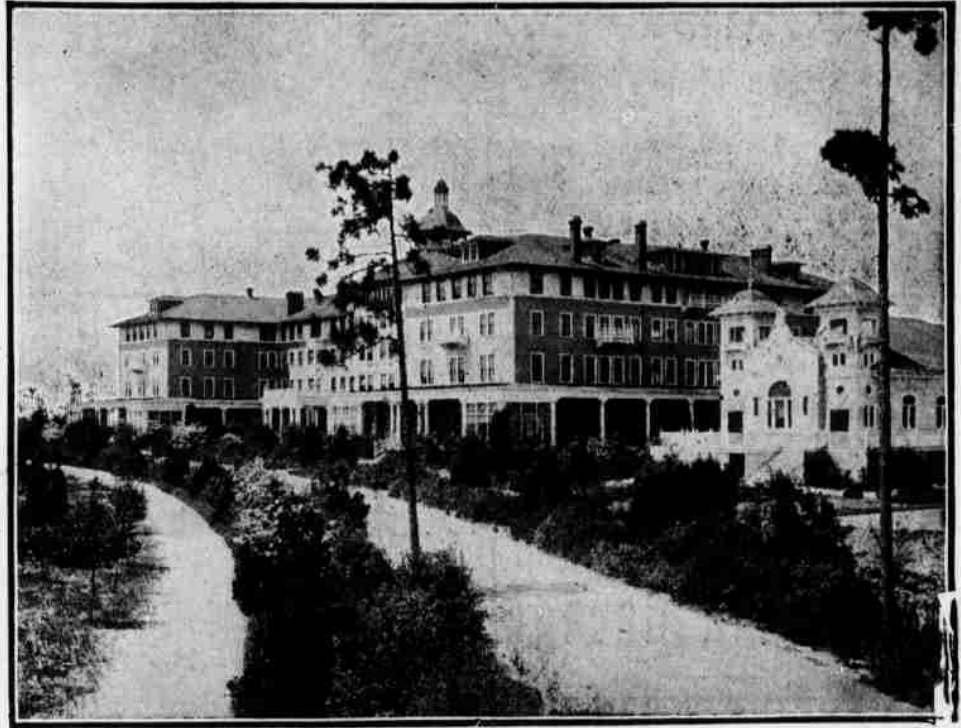
The ingenious mother who planned this playhouse found it served two purposes admirably. First, it gave real joy to her little daughters, who spent many hours daily in it; and second, it afforded a place where they might keep their playthings together and in order. Before having the play-house their toys and dolls had been scattered about in one room and another, never being kept in any one place.



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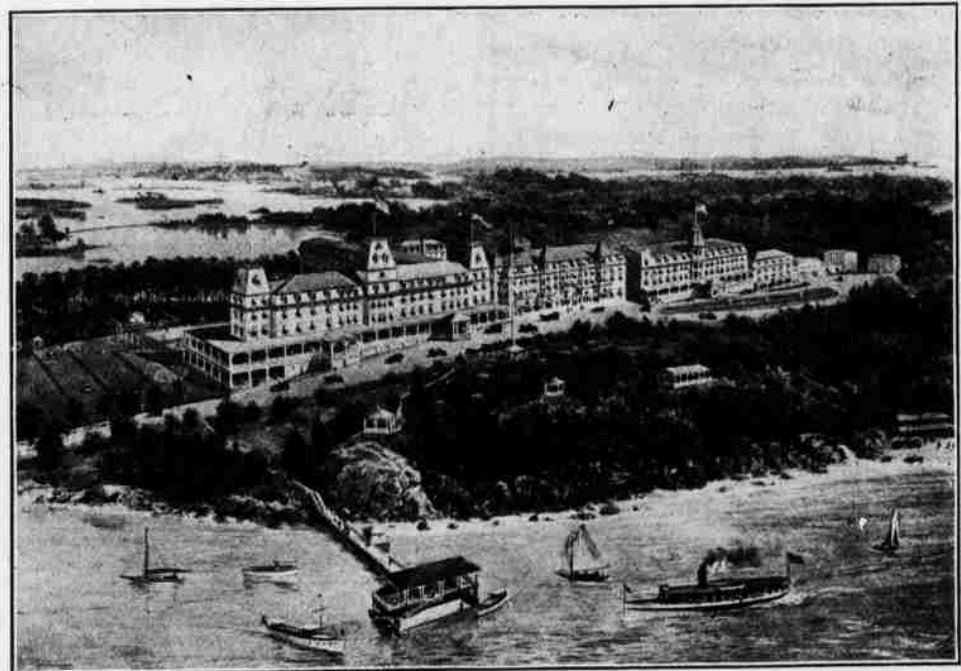


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