

But when the husks were slit and the seeds exposed to the sun and wind while the corn was still standing in the fields, it cured quickly and about two weeks time was saved. When only a few ears in a field were slit, the damage from birds was considerable, but when an entire field was treated in that way, it did not amount to anything.

This method may mean a considerable saving in such states as Iowa and Illinois where nearly a fourth of all the corn in the United States is grown. It is especially useful in sweet corn growing because the large amount of sugar in the corn holds the water longer.

As long as the corn contains as much as 20 per cent. water, there is danger of spoilage due to freezing. Roasting ears have about 85 per cent. moisture, and somewhere between denting time and frost, the corn must lose more than the 65 per cent. difference.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

THE MARVELS OF ANIMAL INGENUITY. By C. A. Ealand. Lippincott. 1925
SCIENTIFIC AMUSEMENTS AND EXPERIMENTS. By C. R. Gibson, Lippincott. 1926.

Mr. Ealand's book is a natural history wonder-book for young people. For the most part it serves its purpose very well, though the author does not discriminate between the mechanical work done by animals, which might legitimately be called animal ingenuity, and adaptations such as the structure of the honey ant and the coloring of birds' eggs. He is also perhaps a little too ready to credit an animal with more intelligence than it really possesses; for example, he perpetuates the myth of beavers felling trees exactly in the right direction. Mr. Gibson's work is frankly of a lighter character, consisting of a miscellaneous collection of elementary experiments in physical chemical and psychological "magic" for the amusement of children.

HASTENS GROWTH OF CUTTINGS BY USING OXIDATION AGENTS

A new method insuring quick rooting of cuttings, and thereby saving time and space in vineyard and nursery operations, was described before the American Association for the Advancement of Science by A.J. Winkler of the California agricultural experiment station.

Mr. Winkler took advantage of the well-known physiological fact that rapid growth is a process requiring rapid use of oxygen by the tissues. He treated grape cuttings with chemicals like hydrogen peroxide and potassium ferricyanide, which belong in the class known as oxidising reagents, having the effect of speeding up the supply and use of oxygen. In all cases he found that the production and growth of roots on his cuttings was materially hastened by the treatment.