

Pruning.—Apple Trees.

After being neglected for a number of years, it is truly a tedious task to prune an orchard of these trees, with that care and attention necessary to improve their condition, yet, the work is well worthy being engaged in, for old trees are still young if well taken care of. A sound bark and half inch thickness of young white wood (alburnum) underneath it being all-sufficient, and though the heart of the tree be hollow, yet the fruit may prove plump and fair. Prune one tree at a time, and that thoroughly. Let all the others stand in their present condition until their turn come to be as thoroughly dealt with. Commence by taking out all young ingrowing branches, and thus through the centre of the tree, make your way to the top. Prune here a riding twig, and there an ingrowing twig until you leave the top like a spread umbrel, composed of twigs and branches, none of which interlace each other. Choose next, four or five main branches, radiating from and encircling the trunk, at about two or three feet distance from, and below the now neatly finished top. Cut away all intermediate branches. Remember that the apple fruit is borne upon spurs, consequently by removing a branch is meant taking it entirely out. From the branches you have selected remove all twigs or lesser branches growing upwards, and all growing downward; reserve those only that spread out flatwise, or horizontally. Do not let even these ride, chafe, or interlace each other, but rather cut back their little branch-like extremities to the next free twig put forth. If well done, you will have an open space all around the trunk, above which is an arched top, below which is a horizontal spread of branches. Descend two or three feet, and choose another set of main branches, as before. Prune them in like manner, and so proceed, until this portion of the work is completed, when it is to be hoped that you will find yourself at the bottom of the tree again. Around you is a goodly quantity of brush and fire-wood, this time cleverly come by. Above you, in pleasing view, are the branches, and their lesser ramifications, spreading horizontally, and rising, tier above tier, to the light and arched top.

Now, if the tree be old, cut the bark up and down with a knife, or else rub it over with soft soap, to get rid of the moss, and also to enable the bark to split and expand, that new sap wood

may be deposited around the trunk, during the growing season; this will check the tendency to throw out suckers, which latter are good branches, but being in too great number, they come to nothing. Under proper management, they will serve to fill vacancies occasioned by neglect, or previous bad pruning. Large limbs and branches are to be taken out with a saw; twigs with a knife or chisel. Pare all the wounds with a knife to smooth the edges of the bark, that it may heal readily. The after pruning will consist chiefly in cutting out a portion of the old fruiting spurs, that they may be replaced by others.

Water Proof Glue.—We give the following different methods of preparing a strong glue or cement, that will withstand heat and moisture, extracted from the *Scientific American*.

1 Melt common glue in the smallest possible quantity of water, and add, by drops, linseed oil that has been rendered dry by having a small quantity of litharge boiled in it: the glue being briskly stirred when the oil is added.

2. Glue will resist water to a considerable extent by being dissolved in skimmed milk.

3. The addition of finely levigated chalk to a solution of common glue in water, strengthens it, and renders it suitable for signs or other work that is exposed to the weather.

4 A glue or cement, that will hold against fire and water, may be made by mixing and boiling together linseed oil and quick lime. This mixture must be reduced to the consistency of soft putty and then spread on tin plates and dried in the shade where it will dry very hard. This may afterwards be melted like common glue, and must be used while hot.

Horchound Candy.—1. Take horchound, and boil it until the juice is extracted, then add to it a sufficient quantity of sugar, boil and stir until it grows thick, then pour it out into a paper case, lined with fine sugar, and cut it into squares; dry and put it into finely-powdered sugar.

2. Horchound juice 1 pint; brown sugar, 6 pounds white sugar, 6 pounds. Mix.

For an Asthma.—Take juice of hyssop, juice of clecampane-root, of each one pound; boil these to a syrup, with double their weight in honey or sugar-candy. Take one spoonful of this syrup in two spoonful of hyssop-water, and one spoonful of com-pound briony-water. Take this three times a day.