

well, and, if possible, graze them when one and two years old, on low marshy land, as it suits their constitutions, and grows their hoofs into proper size and shape. Good keep in winter is also of as much importance, and is repaid both by the size and form of your stock, and the increased value of their dung. Having proceeded on these principles, a good sound-constituted stock will be obtained, ready for gentle work on the land, but not on the road. At three years old and at four years old, though frequently receiving a check from changing their teeth, they are ready for full work and keep; and, if all right and sound at five years old, they may so continue, if well guided, until they are fifteen.

APPLES TREES, PLANTING, SOIL, &c.

The best soil for apples is a sound, good loam; and if this runs down a couple of spits deep, the ground will simply require trenching. If it is hungry or bad, gravelly or sandy near the surface, the soil must be taken out, two feet deep to do any good, and be replaced with better. If, as it is almost always the case, the top surface for some little depth is good enough for ordinary purposes, the best way to manage is, to throw out from a three or four feet circle the top or good spit or half-spit, as the case may be, to a heap, and dig out the remainder to place on another heap, so that you may pare the top spit all round for some distance to fill up the hole with, and spread about the bad or hungry soil; for, as the tree covers the space in time, and little good comes of the crop under trees, it is better to let the tree have all the benefit. Let the trees be carefully taken up, and if there be any of the roots that strike immediately downwards, cut them off, or at least shorten them considerably before planting. Let all the bruised or damaged and broken ends be cut off with a sharp knife; for nothing tends so much to neutralize the growth of a plant more than damaged roots. Let the holes be filled up to almost a heap; spread the roots all round upon the soil when you place the tree in the ground, and the collar of the plant should be rather above the level of the soil, because however it may be trodden down the earth will settle lower. The ground should be prepared all over before the trees are taken up, so that when they are removed, the roots may not in any way dry, even at the most tender extremities. Supposing the earth to have settled a few days, the holes or the roots have not to be dug very deep, only just enough to admit the roots without bending or breaking them; and selecting a fine day, with the earth in good condition, bruise the soil well to go into the roots, and as it is thrown in by your assistant, lift the tree and shake it or swing it downwards from one side to the other,

so that the crumbs of earth may go between all the fibres, and the whole be trodden solid. In treading them in, remember that the principal place to press the earth down is close to the end of the roots, and not close to the trunk; and when they are fixed, drive stakes down into the ground to hold them fast by means of wisps of straw round the trunk and reversed or crossed between that and the stake, and tied with sack-ties or rope-yarn at the end outside the stake, so that the trunk is grasped firmly by the straw, and the straw being crossed is made to grasp the stake as firmly, and the ends opposite tied fast; care must be taken to drive the stake deep enough into the ground to be firm and steady, that the wind shall have no power over it. The distances for trees in an orchard should be not less than thirty feet; but if the ground is to be used, the trees should be thirty feet apart in the row, and the rows fifty or sixty. In small gardens and limited grounds, where we have no permanent interest, and want immediate advantage, they may be much closer; in fact, so long as the trees have room to grow into bearing, we may limit them, by pruning, to any size we please, because the standard tree may be controlled as easily as a wall tree. Planting espaliers only differs in the form of the tree and the distances; twelve feet apart will do for espaliers in a limited garden, although they could be extended to meet at double the distance. Many have railing on purpose to train espaliers on, but stakes driven into the ground upright in a straight line will answer the purpose; the trees are bought trained on purpose for walls or espaliers, and when planted you have to tie the lower two strong branches horizontally within six inches of the ground, and leave a centre branch, which may be cut to a foot in length, of which the top three eyes may be allowed to grow, two to train out horizontally again right and left, and the third to grow upwards to be cut down to a foot in length, to be treated in a similar way. By this means a good pair of horizontal branches may be made every season until the tree is as tall as it may be wanted. If, however, the tree has been trained a year or two before you have it, you may save all the branches, and bring them down as nearly horizontal as you can; for a well-trained tree, well removed, will be in bearing directly. Espaliers are adapted to limited kitchen gardens, as they may be planted close to the paths, or at the back of borders, next a path, they may be made to separate the quarters, and they seem to occupy no available space.—*Hort. Magazine.*

Riches are but ciphers; it is the mind that makes the sum.

It is the great art and philosophy of men, to make the best of the present, whether it be good or bad.