

and weeds. The proper method is to remove the earth to a depth of about a foot and a half, and then fill up one foot of this with broken stones, finishing with five or six inches of clean gravel. This is well shown in Fig. 19, which we have had reproduced from the same source as the other.

A border of nice sod, about six inches in width, is then laid in such a way that its surface is a couple of inches above the walk and about on a level with the adjoining soil.



FIG. 19.

The next thing in order, after planning these pathways, and seeding the lawn, will be the planting with groups of shrubbery and ornamental trees. In this there is room for endless study, and for many blunders. Nothing is more common than to see a yard over full of trees, and these perhaps planted in rows across its whole extent. Another common fault is in having too many trees of any one kind. So much has the Norway Spruce been lauded of late years that in many sections it is almost the only evergreen used, and disagreeable monotony is the result. The writer is one of those who has this tree in too great abundance, and must cut them out by the dozen to make room for others, for variety's sake. In other places the Lombardy Poplar is in excess, and lends a stiff formal appearance to the surroundings. It is a tree that should be planted very sparingly indeed.

One very important point in plant-

ing trees and shrubs in the vicinity of a home, is the careful disposal of them in such a manner as not to conceal distant views, or objects of interest. There may be within sight a beautiful lake,



FIG. 20

or river; a mountain, or a valley; or the spires of a distant city, and it would be in the worst possible taste to hide such a scene. This point is well illustrated in our engraving, which represents the home of Mr. N. P. Bailey, of Harlem, N.Y., where the eye may be charmed with the beautiful prospect lying before it, of one of the most picturesque valleys in the world, through which flows the majestic Hudson. We cannot all have a Hudson river prospect, but very often a distant view of great beauty is gradually being obscured by the increasing growth of trees unwisely placed.

For the most part, both trees and shrubs should be planted in groups at entrances, at curves of the walks, in corners, and on sides of the yard, but some particularly choice specimens may be placed in conspicuous positions. The Scarlet Oak, the Cut-leaf Weeping Birch, the American Elm, all make beautiful single specimens where room for them can be spared. The Oak leaved Mountain Ash, shown in Fig. 25, is also a pretty lawn tree for small lawns, growing only to a height of twenty or thirty feet. A colored