



FIG. 1470.—AKEBIA QUINATA, from an engraving in *The Garden*.

PRUNING SHRUBS.

PRUNING shrubs for other purposes than to promote the formation of flower buds may be done at any time, preferably in the summer, since wounds heal better during the growing season. All that is necessary in pruning for form is to restrain the too rampant growth of some parts so as to make the bush more symmetrical. Such pruning does not imply that the specimen shall be clipped to look like the toy trees in a Noah's ark outfit—a form only too common in many city gardens. It means merely keeping the plant within bounds, but allowing it perfect freedom within those limits. Each shrub has its own peculiar beauty—an individuality which should be retained—and no pruning which destroys this beauty should be practised upon the farm at least.

Spring flowering shrubs develop flowering buds the season previous to blossoming and protect them during winter by various means, such as bud scales. Late bloomers mature their blossom buds during the season in which they flower. Early and late flowering shrubs therefore require as different treatment as beef and dairy cattle. The one rule to keep in mind for flower production

is to prune after flowering. Lilac, Japan quince, flowering currant and other spring bloomers should be pruned in May or June; hydrangea, althea, burning bush and other late bloomers, in late fall or before growth starts in the spring. It is best to leave all tender late flowering shrubs until early spring, to avoid cutting out what might prove hardy canes and to then remove the winter-killed wood.

The only other pruning necessary, as a rule, is that of cutting out dead wood and an occasional centre stem. These obstruct light and air and thus favor disease. The amount of wood to remove at any one time is in each case an individual matter, depending upon the specimen, its species and its behaviour in the locality. It will not be long, as a rule, before the grower learns something of the peculiarities of the specimen and can handle it intelligently.

Non flowering shrubs may be treated the same as flowering, except in the case of evergreens, which should not be pruned in the winter. April is the best month in which to prune them, since they recover more quickly and are not exposed to the drying winds of the long winter months.—*Farm & Home*.