

the Keiffer, and my experience is it becomes one of the most prolific bearers. I have had it now nine years, and every year it is necessary to go through and thin the fruit, it sets so heavily of that magnificent fruit. There are just one or two points necessary in top-working the Keiffer stock. One of my neighbors, a very successful fruit-grower, has met with absolute failure in all his efforts, and I think he has made a mistake in cutting off the entire top of his Keiffer stock at one time. It is a very vigorous grower, and there must be some provision for the flow of sap in the Keiffer stock, otherwise there is a danger of failure; but my plan was this: the Keiffers were set as two year old trees, and allowed to grow one year; then I inserted only two grafts the following season. The next year I would cut off another branch, and the third year would finish the top-working. That left some Keiffer all through the period of changing the tree. The result is that when I had finished the third year the Keiffer wood was all removed, and I had my Anjou stock well established, and good strong top also from the scions that were set. Now in this case there was no check at all given to the tree, and the union has been perfect, and you can't see to-day where the grafts were set. The Bosc I think is a little more difficult, because the Bosc is not so rampant a grower as the Anjou; but I have met with excellent success in top-working the Bosc also from the Keiffer, and have to-day fine trees that are bearing annual crops and of the very finest quality. Now as to the other varieties I have no experience, because I limit myself to very few varieties for market purposes. Our friend Mr. Willard whom you have had the pleasure of having before your Association, has been writing me in reference to the working of the Bartlett pear upon the Keiffer, and I cannot say whether the union will be as perfect with the Bartlett as with the other varieties or not; but if this principle is used in working the tree over gradually, not all at once, I see no reason why there might not be a good union with the Bartlett or the Seckel, or any other variety that might be worked. There is where the important point comes in: do not cut your stock away all at once; take time, and I think you will be entirely successful.

Mr. SMITH: Can that rule be applied to all?

Mr. POWELL: I think that will apply in all cases, but you will not meet with the failures with the Keiffer that you will with others.

Mr. SMITH: Is not the Anjou a coarse feeder?

Mr. POWELL: It is; it will require a great deal of fertilizer. It also requires about as much room as a Baldwin apple tree. They are naturally a very large-growing tree; the roots and the branches spread so that we ought to set Anjou pears at least 35 feet apart. With me the Anjou has proved a healthy, fine, vigorous grower, with good foliage also.

Mr. MORRIS: I would like to say one word with regard to pruning pears. The pear tops should be kept cut off, not allowed to go up in air, for then the wind takes hold of them and blows them down, and when a tree leans to the north-east the sun will strike the stem of that tree and it is going to die. There are more trees killed by the sun getting at the trunk than there are by blight.

Mr. GEO. E. FISHER, Burlington: I find the Anjou does not bear. I have a lot of trees, and some of them are large enough to have had 30 barrels, and they did not bear scarcely anything. How would it be to graft those trees with Anjou?

Mr. POWELL: I think the Anjou would be very much benefited by top-working. In a case like yours where they do not show productiveness, the very fact of cutting off your trees, even after they have stood ten years, and even setting Anjou upon Anjou, I think the effect would be to give you fruit on those trees. The tendency of the Anjou is to make wood; it is a wonderful wood producer, and the vitality seems to go to wood. Now, the checking of that by top-working would give you fruit.

Mr. PATTISON: Would not the ceasing of cultivation have the same effect?