

When lye is not to be had, this mass is boiled with water, but it is not so good and takes longer to dissolve the bones.

I have heard it said that caustic lime would dissolve bones as well as wood-ashes, but I have not tried it, and cannot speak from experience.—*Farm and Garden*.

#### THE ROBINSON PLUM.

The Robinson plum is one of the most promising of the new varieties. It was first introduced to public notice six years ago, when Dr. J. H. Robinson, in a paper read before the Putnam County Horticultural Society, described the variety, highly praising its merits. It was named after Dr. Robinson by this society. . . J. W. Ragan, in his report to Indiana Horticultural Society, 1881, says: "The Robinson bore one-third crop of good smooth plums, 12 trees yielding more than 25 bushels. Fruit slightly oblong, nearly round, with an indistinct suture; color, a pretty marbled red on a yellowish ground; flesh, when fairly ripe, very fine, almost sweet; juicy; when cooked it is one of the best (having almost no trace of that bitter astringency of some of the Chickasaw varieties), and very rich. This is from experience. A fine canning plum; seed very small. . . On the 19th of August, 1884, we went to Putnam county to see this plum in bearing, and there, on a Mr. Johnson's place, saw two hundred trees, which he planted two years ago, now six to eight feet high, and loaded with the finest fruit. Mr. Coleman, of same place, planted eleven small trees four years ago, now about two inches in diameter, eight feet high, and the limbs weighted to the ground and breaking with their load of fruit. Never saw such loads of fruit on small trees before; average more than one bushel to the tree. One tree which Mr. Coleman failed to prop

and tie up was completely ruined (broken to pieces). On single limbs one foot in length twenty-eight plums were counted, and where there were spurs the number was largely increased. The tree is a good grower and is perfectly hardy."—*Prairie Farmer*.

#### A SMALL OUT-DOOR FERNERY.

There are but very few small gardens in the cities or in the rural districts where an opportunity does not exist for the making of a pretty hardy fernery. The north end of the dwelling house or barn may be turned to good account. If the surroundings prevent the use of such locations, a space behind the bushes, between them and the boundary fence will be found useful. Send a tiny, winding walk by one of the larger bushes into one of these neglected spots, and let the walk emerge at another convenient point. In selecting the position protection must be afforded from cold, blustering wind, and shade sufficient to break the direct burning rays of the sun. The free growing and larger species of Ferns will grow in any fresh turfy soil, with an admixture of sandstone grit and small stones. All silly or elaborate attempts at rockery making are unnecessary; all that is required is a rich sandy loam well mixed with the materials mentioned above. When they commence to grow after planting, daily sprinklings with tepid water are beneficial, adding, as they do, considerably to the freshness, health and beauty of the young fronds.—*Vick's Magazine*.

#### EXPERIMENTAL FRUIT GROWING.

The Abbotsford Fruit Growers' Association has lately made a distribution of 13 trees to each of its members to test their value on different soils. There were 315 apple trees of 52 varieties, including several long keeping Russian