

TREES IN WINTER.



HAVE often thought that this subject ought to receive from planters more attention than it does at present. The individuality of different ornamental trees is much more apparent in winter than in summer. When clothed with foliage we lose all the character and variety noticeable in the arrangement of their branches and twigs, which is very distinct in different species. One of the most obvious features in connection with the wintery aspect of trees is their tone of color. The common elm, for example, stands out nearly black when seen against a clear grey sky or when snow is lying on the ground, and the same may be said of the common hawthorne. Oaks are a little more cheerful in tone, and poplars still more so, as their growth is more pliant. A poplar when swayed to and fro on a bright winter's day is one of the most beautiful of all trees, because then the different shades of soft silvery grey and brown are reflected from the branches in a very pleasing manner. Poplars are always in motion, too, whenever there is the slightest breeze, and this gives variety and interest to the groups of other trees in which they are planted. They are very attractive when budding out in the spring, which some of them do very early, and their green shades being very delicate, harmonize thoroughly with the soft browns of the stems and branches.

One of the lightest and brightest of all trees in the winter, however, is undoubtedly the common birch, which should always find a place on the lawn, and especially in the vicinity of ornamental water. Seen on a bright sunny day in December, the Silvery birch is one of the most beautiful of all ornamental trees, and when covered with white hoar-frost, it is difficult to imagine a more attractive object. The Wych elm and larch are also beautiful under the circumstances just named. The larch, when planted as an isolated specimen on the lawn, is most effective, and very different from the same tree when drawn up in a mixed plantation. As a solitary specimen it varies in height from 50 feet to 100 feet, and its light, drooping branches feather down to the turf in the most graceful manner. No ornamental tree is more beautiful in the early spring months, when its young foliage shows the freshest and most delicate shades of green imaginable. The common ash is a bright-looking tree in winter, the bark being of a silvery grey or light brown tint. This tree ought to be more generally planted in the suburbs than it is, for as a town tree it is immeasurably superior to either the elm, lime or chestnut, all of which suffer from drought and red spider during hot summers, and lose their leaves or become rusty towards the end of July. The ash is rather late in leafing, but, like the planes, its foliage keeps fresh and green until the sharp frosts of autumn cause it to fall, and on this account it deserves a place in town squares and gardens.—The Garden.