



Want of Success in Tree-Planting.

This is much complained of, and there are various ways of accounting for it. Tree-planting is too often done in so careless and slovenly a manner, that it were idle to hope for success. To thrust a tree hastily into a hole that is too small for the root, and ram the dirt down with the boot or a piece of timber, is no way to do. A roomy and mellow bed should be prepared for the tree,—it should be transplanted with as much root as possible, and care should be taken to spread out the fibres and bring them into contact with the soil. Sometimes a tree is too deeply planted, and at other times not deeply enough. Many trees are stunted, if not killed outright, by neglect of proper after culture. For example, a young orchard is planted, and the land sowed to grain, as much of a yield being expected as though there were no trees in the ground at all. Nothing should be grown in a young orchard that will crowd up to the trees and monopolize the entire nourishment stored in the soil. A root crop is the best to raise in such a place, and a space should be left around each tree unplanted. Some people keep ploughing and sowing in the orchard, scraping close to the trees, injuring the bark with the whiplike tree and the roots with the plough, and then wonder the trees do so badly. We know of an orchard subjected to this treatment which looks just as might be expected, the trees wearing signs of distress, and too plainly showing what a hard time they have of it. Again, an orchard is planted in a poor piece of ground without manure, and the trees are literally starved to death. Or, perhaps, after the trees have begun to flourish, they are neglected in the early spring, and fall a prey to the tent caterpillar. Nothing is easier than the extermination of this pest, yet many refuse to take the trouble of destroying that which, small though it be, can work terrible havoc among fruit trees.

Among the causes of failure, these must not be forgotten—buying trees of irresponsible peddlers, and unreliable parties generally. Unsuitable sorts, unhealthy trees, and even dead trees, are sometimes palmed off upon the unwary, by those whose only object is to make a little money, no matter at whose cost. Our advice to all and sundry is to buy only first class trees, to deal with responsible nurserymen, and to go upon the maxim that whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. A tree is not planted for a month or a season, but for a life-time and for generations to come. By all means, therefore, let it be done in a thorough, pains-taking, and workmanlike manner.

Cultivation of the Strawberry.

THE following paper on the cultivation of the strawberry is from the pen of Mr Wright, gardener to the Hon. A. L. Melville, of Brantford.

"The soil best suited for the strawberry may be described as strong, rich, and deep. Therefore trenching the ground to a depth of 20 to 24 inches, and making it good from the top to the bottom, is a necessity to all who wish to excel in its cultivation. The first step towards realizing quick returns in strawberry culture, is, undoubtedly, to secure early runners—and here some attention is requisite, for there are few beds of this fruit that do not contain a root here and there, which, though robust in foliage, produces no fruit: and as those roots generally emit runners sooner than their more fruitful neighbours,

there is some danger in perpetuating a kind which will most probably preserve the barren character of the parent. This is a point which I conceive is sometimes overlooked. I remember once on a time having six plants of that very excellent strawberry, La Constante, sent to me. Two out of six were barren. I secured all the runners I could from them, carefully keeping those from the barren plants separate, and after three years' trial, those from the barren plants produced no fruit, while those from the fruitful ones never failed to yield abundant crops. I mention this case as illustrative of what I would convey, though it is by no means a solitary instance; nor is it confined to any particular variety. If, then, in the fruiting season, any plants are found of this character, dig them up, and then: they can only be regarded as cumberers of the ground—robbers. In order to secure early plants it is good practice, when the plants begin to put forth their runners, to spread half an inch of nice, kind, fresh soil between the rows. This will induce them to root much sooner than they would do in the natural soil, especially if a flat stone is placed on the runners, close to the embryo plant, just of sufficient weight to keep it pressed to the soil. A small peg will of course effect this, but I prefer a stone, for even on the hottest day a stone which is placed flat and close to the ground, when moved, will be found to have so effectually arrested evaporation as to be quite moist underneath. This moisture is important as accelerating the rooting process. Let the young plants get well rooted before separating them from the parents. There is nothing gained by taking them off too soon. They should be in fine condition by the end of July. If the soil in which they are intended to fruit is of a light nature, tread it firmly: if it is heavy, it will only require to be slightly trodden. It is, however, easier to err in having the soil too light than too firm. Take the plants up carefully, with balls of earth attached, securing every possible bit of fibre, plant in rows fifteen inches from row to row, and twelve inches apart in the row. This distance applies to good sound land; in light soil they may be planted closer, say twelve inches apart every way. When planted, water well and repeatedly until they take hold of the soil. When established, an occasional soaking of manure water will be of great benefit to them. Pick off all runners as they appear, run the hoe through the soil frequently to extirpate weeds, prevent evaporation, and admit air. This treatment will secure fine bold crowns by the autumn, which will produce an abundant crop of fruit the first season.

"When they have completed their season's growth, and show signs of rest, give them their winter's dressing, by covering the soil with two or three inches of good manure; this will enrich the soil, and protect the roots and crowns from the effects of severe frosts. With the exception of removing the decayed leaves from the plants when they commence to grow in the spring, no attention will be required till the blossoming period. About this time means must be adopted to keep the fruit clean. It is common to use for this purpose short grass; this is not good, neither is chaff, especially if heavy showers of rain are frequent, as it beats up and adheres to the ripe fruit; clean straw or stable litter is much preferable. I have seen used for this purpose fresh tan, spent hops, trimmings from the basket manufactory, &c.; local circumstances will, however, generally determine the point. Where the fruit is swelling off, one or two good waterings with manure water will greatly increase it in size, and improve it in colour; this must be no slight sprinkling affair, but an effectual soaking poured on hotly, and in sufficient quantity to reach every root; one ounce of guano to a gallon of water is safe as to strength, and will never fail to benefit the plants. Care must be taken that it is not poured on the fruit or foliage, as it is decidedly injurious; neither is it judicious to water after the fruit has fairly commenced colouring. I am purposely particular in noticing these little points of detail, as they are too often overlooked; little things, instead of being despised, are, in many instances, the finishing touches to the successful completion of the particular work to which they apply. After the fruit is all gathered, take out entirely every alternate row, which will leave them two and a half feet distance for the second season's fruit and one foot in the rows. Clear away all runners, but on no account cut away any full grown leaves, they have an important function to perform in the elaboration of food produced by the roots, and in absorbing nourishment from the atmosphere. The after management is precisely similar to that described for young plants. After the second crop of fruit is gathered, take out of the rows every alternate plant, which will leave them two and a half feet; this will give them additional room, and enable them to attain their full size for the third year. Again heavily manure in the autumn, and after they have produced their third crop dig

them up altogether, for though they will bear for a longer period, it is seldom they produce heavily after the third crop has been taken.

"In the autumn on which I entered my present situation I found a plan adopted here which is certainly worth recording, as it produced the finest crop of strawberries the first year I ever saw. It was suggested, I believe, by my employer. It consists in planting the rows two feet apart, and at every two feet in the row, instead of planting one plant, three are planted in a triangle of four or five inches apart. They gave a splendid crop the first season, and had all the appearance of a plantation two or three years old. After the crop was gathered in this case I found that the great increase of crowns rendered it necessary that some should be removed entirely, or they would have been crowded and immature. When this thinning is judiciously done this plan is certainly worthy of adoption."—*Bell's Weekly Messenger*

Origin of Plants.

CELERY originated in Germany.
The chestnut came from Italy.
The onion originated in Egypt.
Tobacco is a native of Virginia.
The nettle is a native of Europe.
The citron is a native of Greece.
The pine is a native of America.
The poppy originated in the East.
Oats originated in North Africa.
Rye originally came from Siberia.
Parsley was first known in Sardinia.
The pear and apple are from Europe.
Spinach was first cultivated in Arabia.
The sunflower was brought from Peru.
The mulberry originated in Persia.
The gourd is probably an Eastern plant.
The walnut and peach came from Persia.
The horse chestnut is a native of Thibet.
The quince came from the Island of Crete.
The cucumber came from the East Indies.
The radish is a native of China and Japan.
Peas are supposed to be of Egyptian origin.
Garden beans came from the East Indies.
Garden cress is from Egypt and the East.
Horse radish was brought from the South of Europe.
Hemp is a native of Europe and America.
The parsnip is supposed to be a native of Arabia.
The potato is a well known native of Peru and Mexico.

The currant and gooseberry came from Southern Europe.
Buckwheat came originally from Siberia and Tartary.

Millet was first known in India and Abyssinia.
Writers of undeniable respectability state that the cereals, and others of those edible productions, grow spontaneously in that portion of Tartary east of the Belur Tag, and north of the Himalaya mountains.—*Et.*

REMEDY FOR ROSE ARMS. An exchange gives the following directions for the treatment of the destructive little creature.—As for the rose aphid, weak tobacco water is a good remedy, and a decoction of quassia (one ounce of chips to a quart of water) still better. Mr. Cranston has found the following succeed in the destruction of aphides: "To one pound of tobacco and two pounds of soft soap add six quarts of boiling water; let this stand a short time, then strain through a piece of coarse canvas; to the filtered liquor add nine or ten gallons of water, and with this diluted fluid syringe the plants infested, or otherwise dip the branches into it, wetting the whole of the foliage: it is necessary repeat the operation two or three times, always syringing the plants over afterwards with clean water." This, like every other remedy, should be applied in time. Even if the remedy be successfully applied, it is of very little use if only brought to bear when the plants are covered with vermin and weakened by them. With vermin as with weeds, it is a great saving to attack them when young and tender, then you prevent their ravages as well as take their lives. But, notwithstanding the soundness of this policy, comparatively few amateurs put into it, generally waiting till their plants are "eaten up" with vermin before they notice it; whereas the careful plant-grower is always on the look-out for the smallest colony, and applies his remedy upon seeing two or three, well knowing that these are sufficient to populate the globe in a few months if feeding ground be provided.