

is an essential thing for every farm household to have abundance of fruit for home use. That such is the case no one will pretend to deny. And what seems strange is that farmers as a class are more deficient in having a supply of small fruit than any others. The cost of plants sufficient to supply the wants of a family is so trifling that no man who owns an acre of land need be without them on account of the cost of a start. In our warm summers fruit is necessary to good health. The saving in doctors' bills will often more than pay the expense of a crop of fruit.

HEDGING.—The great cost of lumber when wanted for fencing to any extent, and the growing scarcity of trees suitable for making rails, make the question of fences a very important one. Wire fencing has its advantages and advocates, and would be of benefit on rented farms, but on the homestead we must turn to hedges for ornamental and defensive purposes. So much has been written about hedges that the subject is pretty well known; therefore we wish to draw your attention to the advisability and the advantages of planting hedges without more delay. A great many kinds are suitable for the purpose. Wild Plum, Native Hawthorn, Beech and Apple make capital hedges. Cedar also makes a fine ornamental evergreen hedge, but for ornamental purposes and wind-breaks we prefer the Norway Spruce; it forms a dense, impenetrable hedge, affording great shelter to gardens as a wind-break, and in winter gives a comfortable appearance to the outside world. In Berberry and Buckthorn we find the necessary hedge plants for the million; being perfectly hardy, they thrive in the colder parts of Canada. They can be purchased cheaply by the thousand, and will grow in all soils and conditions. Bearing abundance of seeds, it would be a good plan to purchase a few of each to raise some for your own sowing, thus raising your own hedge plants and setting a good example to your neighbors. We give cuts of the Berberry and Buckthorn hedge, showing their appearance after several years' care.

PRUNING.—Take advantage of fine days to examine your trees for insects and to cut out all dead wood and suckers. Prune out branches that are crowding the trees. Be careful to remove all trimmings and rubbish created in garden or orchard, so as not to afford hiding-places for mice and other vermin. Tramping snow firmly around young trees will prevent them from being girdled.

GRAPE EYES, made like cut, can be put in boxes of sand or pots, in rows two inches apart, plunged to leave tip of bud protruding. Put on a little bottom heat in green-house or, in hot-bed; they will root freely and can be potted off in May or planted outside in open ground.



FIG 1

HOUSE PLANTS will need re-potting and shifting, pulling off dead leaves and old flower stems. Any cuttings or slips of geraniums, fuchsias, heliotropes, ivy, &c., may be put in sand; they will root readily, and their potting and attention necessary will give nice employment to the ladies.

MANURE and mulch asparagus or rhubarb beds, if not before attended to. Save your coal and wood ashes for putting around your fruit trees. These, mixed with lime, will be the best fertilizers. Begin to collect stable manure to keep dry for the making of a hot-bed next month.

TREES, BULBS, ROOTS, &c., stored in cellar will need looking after; if growing too much, shake them out of whatever they are covered with and leave exposed to air in cellar for a few days; this

will check them. Fresh air will prevent growth of mildew.

ROOT GRAFTS of apple, pear and plum may now be made, tied with waxed thread, cloth or paper, and stored in boxes in layers between sawdust; they will keep all right and will be found calloused and ready for planting when that time arrives.

CUTTINGS of currants, gooseberries, quince, willow, poplar, &c., should be made in lengths from 8 to 10 inches long, tied in bundles of 100 each, and packed away in sand or sawdust, or buried in ground; they will callous and be ready for planting.

Decide on making some improvements about home by the planting of a hedge for division of lawn from vegetable garden; make some walks; plant some evergreens and ornamental trees; plant a line of trees about orchard or stock-yard and for a wind-break. In fig. 2 we try to show appearance



Fig. 2—Homestead with Shelter.

of homestead with shelter. The increase in value to the farm by having orchard, small fruits, grape vines, hedges, &c., would be near one-half the ordinary value over the appearance of the place in fig. 3.



Fig. 3—Homestead without Shelter.

Notwithstanding all that we have from time to time printed on the subject of pruning out-door grape vines, we are constantly receiving questions as to the best time it ought to be attended to. We know that different authorities select different periods; but our own experience is that it can be done after the new wood is matured and the leaves fallen, up to the middle of February, as may be most convenient, with equal success. After being pruned the vines should be cut loose from the trellis and let sprawl upon the ground, and be allowed to remain there until after the buds have started. This insures low branching, which some people don't know how to produce.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

Many of the finest evening primroses are natives of California, Utah, Missouri and Texas, hence are not reliably hardy. It is advisable to winter the more tender sorts, biennials or perennials; in frames, and when practicable sow seeds and raise seedlings annually. It is said they all bloom the first season from early seedlings. Some of the true perennials, and particularly the prostrate growing ones, are shy seedling in open gardens, but the tall growers seed freely.

Correspondence—Continued.

English Agricultural Notes.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

SIR,—Unfortunately we cannot echo the first sentence of your December number, for the past season has been little short of disastrous to a large section of British farmers, preceded as it was by three adverse years; but British agriculturists are very dogged, and like our military, scarcely know when they are beaten. The wheat crop of last harvest was very deficient in yield and two-thirds of it was badly secured, while a great deal of wheat is quite unfit for human food, and this, in addition to a low price, gives no profitable return to the farmer upon the staple crop; the simple fact is that all other countries can produce wheat at a less cost than England, land being cheaper, labor far less, rates and taxes insignificant when compared with our island.

Barley in some counties, especially in the eastern district, is a fairly remunerative crop this season, not because the yield is large, but because the price is high, for exceptional reasons: the climate in the east being drier, this grain was gathered in a condition far better than in the midland and northern counties, consequently the buyers concentrate their attention upon the eastern counties' samples; yet another reason is that the French qualities are much below an average, and are not suitable for English maltsters, therefore they do not come to hand in anything like the force we usually have them.

All kinds of store animals are very dear, and the last official returns give a large falling off in numbers both of sheep and bullocks as compared with last year. This is ample proof that our flocks and herds are gradually diminishing in numbers; there is nothing like the quantity of mutton and beef being made this year, partly on account of the high price of store stock and partly in consequence of the very high price of straw (70s. per ton), which farmers prefer to sell rather than stamp under foot as litter for beasts and sheep.

The price of fat meat keeps up, notwithstanding the large importations from across the Atlantic; in fact we scarcely think that the price has been at all reduced from this cause, but had it not been for heavy supplies from abroad the price of meat here would have been much higher. It is commonly remarked that grazing must pay because meat is so dear—a very fallacious conclusion to arrive at and one easily dispelled when we remember that as a rule store beasts cost us, dead weight, 14 pence per lb., and the butchers do not give us more than 9 pence per lb. Any one at all acquainted with the feeding of animals must see at a glance that under such conditions, coupled as they are with the high price of feeding stuffs, it is impossible to make grazing a profitable transaction.

There are hundreds of farms here which are without tenants, while landlords offer great inducements to let.

Our great Xmas Cattle Show in London has just come off. We have attended it many years, and we are bound to say neither in numbers nor quality did the beasts or sheep come up to our usual standard; a great many who were ambitious to have their names figure in the prize list have ceased to exhibit, as they found that making very prime meat was not profitable.

The exhibition of implements was as large as ever, every foot of space being occupied, while every farm machine was shown in many forms of construction, from the large 14-horse power plowing engines of Messrs. Fowler & Co., to the miniature hand-dibble by Sigma.

There were two novelties exhibited to the public for the first time—one being what is termed a broadside steam digger of 8-horse power, which was shown only in model, but attracted a good deal of attention from engineers and mechanics; this machine is the invention of Mr. Darby, and certainly possesses considerable merit, but whether the end proposed to be attained is out of proportion to the cost and power exerted remains to be seen. The other novelty was a truly labor-saving machine, and one that has been much needed for some time; it is called the "Farm-Yard Manure Spreader," invented and recently greatly improved by Capt. Delf, of Great Bertley, Essex. The machines are made by Messrs. Davey, Paxman & Co., Colchester, who have a world-wide reputation for their patent vertical engines and boilers, which took honors at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, and whose character as first-class engineers