

"The preparation of this vine border is an important process in grape culture in private gardens. It should be made from four to six feet wide, and two to three feet deep, and be composed of a liberal mixture of limestone, or old plaster or mortar, bones, leather-parings, hair, ashes, and strong, well rotted manure, well mixed with the soil.

A calcareous soil or gravelly loam is best for the grape, and should be well drained and warm. It is somewhat difficult in wet clay lands to raise good grapes, unless the vine border is carefully prepared. Soap-suds and wash from the house is favourable for the grape, and we have known some plants succeed well that were placed immediately under the spout of the sink. For vineyard culture, the nearer the process approximates to the one described above by trenching and enriching, the better.

Every plant should be thoroughly pruned down to two or three leading shoots, and after these cover the trellis or stakes as extensively as you wish, then the rule in pruning is, every year from December to first of February, fearlessly to cut back all of the last year's growth, so far as to leave only two eyes. It is also desirable, after the grapes are beginning to fill in June, to pinch back the terminal bud of every branch, and thus check its growth and throw back its sap, to ripen the fruit and mature the wood. By pinching back, we mean, to pinch off with the thumb-nail and fore-finger the end of every bearing branch, and we then cut out all the superfluous little shoots and suckers.

The vine is composed the greater part of potash, lime and carbonic acid, and therefore a frequent application of lime and soap-suds is beneficial. It has been asserted that tartaric acid is a valuable specific for the fruit, but of this we have no personal knowledge.

The grape should always be grown in the warmest and most sheltered situation, so that the fruit may ripen well before frost. The south side of a house, or southern slope of a hill-side, should be chosen.

In some places the mildew is troublesome to the grape, but sulphur sprinkled liberally on its first appearance, will usually check it at once. There is also a kind of snail slug which often destroys the leaves in a few weeks. These can easily be destroyed by showing the vines two or three times with strong soap-suds from the wash."

We may observe that the above is from an American, not a European authority, and is therefore adapted to this country. We believe we have sufficiently complied with the wishes of our correspondent.

AUSTRALIAN LOCUSTS.—Lieut. Du Cane, R.E., informed the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society at a late meeting, that "a portion of the colony of Western Australia had for some years been regularly visited, at the time the crops were rising, by swarms of locusts, which eat up everything green on the face of the country; attacking and utterly destroying the potato crops, the fruit-trees, vines, and in fact everything; that these locusts appeared to have become regular habitants of the colony, not making a sudden appearance and an equally sudden disappearance, as in some instances; and that they threatened to overspread the whole colony, for rivers did not, as might have been expected, stop their progress." The Council having referred that communication to Mr. Curtis, the highest entomological authority of this country, for the favour of his opinion, the following communication was received from him:—"I regret that I can give your correspondent no satisfactory information regarding the destruction of locusts. Even if there were any remedies, it is doubtful whether they could be successfully employed, as in all probability the species of locusts in Australia differ very essentially in their economy from those of Europe. In my forthcoming report for the Journal, which I am happy to say is now completed, I have briefly alluded to the locusts of this country; and the only remedy appears to be the employment of poultry during the autumn and winter, which search for and feed upon the eggs of the grasshoppers." The Council voted their best thanks to Mr. Curtis for the favour of this communication.

PIG MEASLES.—The disease of which we speak, is the result of an animal parasite, which infects all parts of the body, and which is believed to be an imperfect condition of the tape-worm. It is sufficient for us to say, that the disease is to be prevented rather than cured, and that it will not occur except in case of "inattention to the cleanliness of the pig's food and drink."