



FIG. 2260. Branches of Morello Cherry (half size), showing last year's shoots (a, a) and fruit spurs (b) along the sides of the older wood.

others, and kinds that sucker readily may easily be propagated by root-cuttings.

Fruit Branches.

When trees begin bearing fruit, special forms of branches may be found in them, that are not noticeable in young trees not yet in bearing. These are the branches upon which the fruit is produced. Different kinds of trees have different kinds of fruiting branches with which it is important that the fruit grower should be familiar.

One of the most insignificant-looking branches, yet the most important in its productiveness, is what is known as the **fruit-spur**.

Fruit-spurs.

These are short, stunted-looking branches which differ much in appearance and habit of growth in different fruits, as may be seen by the accompanying illustrations.

In apple and pear trees, the fruit-spur makes its appearance first as a prominent bud on wood at least two years old. During the second season, it lengthens a short distance, and bears only a cluster of leaves, but the third season it usually blooms; and, if all goes well, bears fruit. After fruiting, it branches again just below where the fruit is produced, extends half an inch or more, and bears again, and usually continues branching and bearing in alternate seasons. After several years of such growth, the branch may not be over six to eight inches in length, and yet the scars on its sides may show that it has several times produced fruit. Fig. 2261 shows an apple fruit-spur of seven seasons' growth, which has produced four apples, as seen by the large scars at (a). Three attempts at bearing have been made at (b) but the blossoms have fallen without setting fruit, as shown by the small scars; and six strong fruit-buds at (c) give promise of fruit next year.

In vigorous young apple and pear trees just beginning to bear, most of the fruit will be found at the end of the slender fruiting branches from six to ten inches in length, usually in the centre of the tree.

Such branches were shoots that began life with the evident intention of producing nothing but wood and leaves, as has been the custom in the tree, the terminal bud of each has been transformed into a fruit-bud, and Nature has directed their energy to the production of fruit.

When the trees are bare of foliage, the fruit-spurs may often be noticed very much enlarged and swollen. This is quite commonly seen in the Ben Davis and Oldenburg apple trees and also in some kinds of pear