

THE FARMER'S APPLE ORCHARD.

By D. W. BEADLE, TORONTO, ONT.

Apple trees will grow in a great variety of soils, yet will give the best results when grown in a well drained, calcareous (lime) loam. A northern exposure is preferable to a southern one, and high ground to low land.

Trees four years old from the bud or graft bear transplanting better than those that are older; at five years after being set in the orchard they will be better trees than those that are much older when planted. They will yield better flavored and higher colored fruit when planted well apart, ordinarily forty feet each way is the proper distance. Plenty of sunlight and free circulation of air, are essential to the healthy development of the foliage, in which the processes of assimilation are carried on; in addition the conditions are not so favorable to the growth of the fungus, *fuscicladium dendriticum*, which causes the well-known apple scab.

PRUNING.

Every spring the orchard should be carefully examined before the weather has become warm enough to start the sap, and the trees pruned with a knife wherever needed to prevent the head from becoming too dense. If properly pruned it will rarely be necessary to use any other instrument; the cutting off of large limbs should be averted by removing them when small. When it is necessary to take off a large limb, the better plan is to cut away only a part of it each spring, thereby lessening the size of the final cut in its proportion to the size of the trunk, thus enabling the tree to heal in less time.

VARIETIES.

The varieties to be planted for home use will depend somewhat upon personal preferences, and much upon the conditions in which the planter is placed. It is advisable before deciding upon the kinds, to examine the bearing orchards of the vicinity, and make choice among those that do well in similar soil, exposure and temperature.

The following varieties are named about in the order of ripening: Yellow Transparent, Red Astrachan, Oldenburg, Chenango, Gravenstein, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Pippin, Snow apple, Tompkins