

SEASONABLE HINTS FOR FRUIT GROWERS.

WINTER PROTECTION.

IN our report for 1888, page 15, some reference is made to the protection of raspberry bushes; and the mode that is practised in the Ottawa valley is described. The canes are allowed to grow as long as possible without cutting back, in order that they may be easily bent to the ground and held down with sods or a long pole or rail, laid over the tops in such a way that the snow will collect over them and afford a perfect protection. The objection we would have to this mode of training lies in the difficulty of cultivation with such long sprawling arms, and the loss of bearing wood which must result from cutting them in the spring. In the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society's Report we find another plan recommended which appears to be preferable for cold sections, and give the extract describing it, with an illustration which helps to make it plain.

The Ripon people have been very successful in the practice of laying Raspberry and Blackberry bushes down for winter protection. Their way of laying them down is by the help of a plow, which is run close alongside the row, the dirt being thrown away from the row. The surplus wood is removed from the bushes.

A man follows the plow with a spade and after loosening up the earth about the roots on the side towards the furrow he pushes the plants down and covers the top with earth. The roots are like ropes and will not break. Mr. Plumb thinks

that this is the most economical way of protecting Blackberries. Mr. Stone's great success with Blackberries was accomplished on poor land. The manure and the cultivation were applied early in the season, and in that way strong canes were secured before winter. He thinks we should take the best protection for the bushes that we can get. The plowing between the rows does not materially increase the number of suckers. The plowing may be done as near as possible to the bush and no injury will result.

Mr. Tuttle stated that his Blackberries had been killed above ground

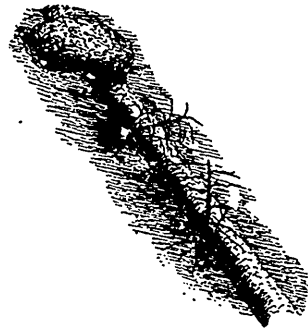


FIG. 75.—PROTECTION OF BLACKBERRIES.

last winter, owing to their not being protected. Mr. Hoxie was opposed to the State Society any longer giving countenance to the assertion that the Snyder and Stone's Hardy blackberries will do without protection. Mr. Plumb stated that he advised a neighbor, who was planting a patch of Blackberries, to keep them cut back to one foot. The neighbor kept them cut below two feet, and they proved a success. Mr. Tuttle stated that he had tried the same plan but met with no success. Mr. Jeffries had pinched the Stone's Hardy back,