

## HINTS FOR NOVEMBER.



**BUSY MONTH.**—With the fruit-grower the month of November is by no means a time of leisure, as with the farmer. The picking and packing, of apples so delays every other work, that Jack Frost has his icy hands upon us ere we are prepared for him. Much fall ploughing should be done in our orchards, in order to expose the soil to the disintegrating influences of the frost, and to rout the mice, who are so fond of nesting in the proximity of fruit trees.

Especial care should now be given to young trees to guard them against mice, which are almost sure to attack their young and tender bark under deep snows of winter. The simplest mode of protection is a mound of fine earth thrown up about the trunk. This any one can do with no expense, except for the labor, and, after twenty years of practical experience, the writer can commend it as perfectly reliable. Tin guards, wire netting, thin flats of veneering placed about the tree and simply fastened in place with wire, or string, are excellent. The only question is that of economy of time and money in deciding the preference.

**CUTTINGS.**—In enlarging our fruit plantations it is quite unnecessary to spend money purchasing vines and bushes of such fruits as may be easily grown from cuttings. Grapes, currants, gooseberries and quinces are all easily propagated in this way, even by the merest amateur. It costs little trouble to bury or preserve in sawdust the wood from the annual pruning, and, at the proper season, to plant it in nursery rows which can easily be cared for with a one-horse cultivator. Of several thousand currant cuttings made by the writer, and planted out last spring, in such rows, scarcely one failed to grow; and on other occasions we have had similar experience with grape and quince cuttings.

Mr. A. S. Fuller in his "Grape Culturist," gives the following as his method of preparing grape cuttings:—"About the last of November, or the 1st of December, I select the wood for cuttings, and with a pair of garden shears cut it up into lengths of about six inches, leaving not less than two buds upon the cutting. If the wood is very short-jointed, a cutting of this length will have



FIG. 86.