

We give below a few extracts from the Patent Office Report, as a sample of the useful facts it contains:—

Maine Apples and Ice.—Apples grown in this State (Maine) are kept a month longer than those raised in most of the other sections of the country. I therefore believe that Maine will, at no distant day, become one of the largest exporting fruit States in the Union. Immense quantities of ice are annually exported to foreign countries, in ships owned here, which affords us every facility for adding to the cargoes of ice, our long-keeping apples. In this respect we have many advantages over our brethren of other States, which have less seacoast, and, with two exceptions, less navigation. Maine is indented along the seacoast with more than three hundred harbors, suitable for ships, steamers, and other vessels.—*Henry Little, Bangor, Maine.*

Cost and Profit of an Apple Orchard.—One hundred trees planted on an acre of land will cost, on an average, \$25. The land should be kept in a state of cultivation whilst the trees are coming into bearing. About \$25 expended in care and labor, besides the crops taken from the land, will bring them into bearing state. When an acre of trees is in its prime it will average 400 bushels per annum, provided the land is kept rich and loose, and the trees well managed. Average price, 66 cents per bushel. Our surplus apples are valuable for all kinds of stock, particularly to winter store-hogs. Sweet apples are worth about as much as potatoes.—*A. Preble, Lincoln Co., Me.*

Quinces and their Cultivation.—Quinces are coming rapidly into cultivation here. Twelve years ago there were not more than half a dozen bearing trees in and about this city. Now, many families raise their own. The supply of our market with this fruit has usually been from the western part of the State. They are retailed here to private purchasers, at from 31 to 50 cents the peck, according to the supply in market. Deep and rich soil is also found useful. The use of salt, once considered indispensable, is now, I think, entirely abandoned. The liabilities of this fruit to injury are few; occasionally, during a mild winter, its young wood is killed in spots where it is too much sheltered. It is also sometimes injured by the borer.—*C. E. Goodrich, Utica, N. Y.*

Shaker Specific for the Pear Tree.—We have had great difficulty in making the pear tree grow on our clayey soil. After persevering and experimenting fifteen years at least, we have discovered a specific. We tried all the special manures our experiments or reading suggested, until, observing the effect of urine on an unthrifty apple tree, we were induced to try it on some pear trees which were unthrifty in spite of iron, ashes, lime, boneblack, and high manuring. The result was, that the trees shot up a growth as luxuriant as weeds in a hotbed. Those which had rarely made an inch of growth in a season, grew scions from 18 inches to 3 feet even, in the summer following the application. The mode

of treatment should be as follows:—The trees should be well and carefully set out, the soil made good by the application of iron, lime, or leached ashes. As soon as the buds are fairly opened, take of urine from the watercloset about two quarts, and sprinkle it around each tree; stir the surface of the earth a little, so that it may be well mixed, and also to prevent the forming of a crust by rapid evaporation: a cloudy day is the best time for this operation, as it retards the escape of volatile salts. In about a month, another application may be made in the same way. After this, it is only necessary to repeat the operation on those trees which may not have yielded satisfactorily to the first treatment. Care should be used not to overstimulate, as this, of course, would be dangerous.—*Shaker Society, Worcester Co., Mass.*

Plums in Wisconsin.—For raising plums, this country will probably be unsurpassed. The trees make the most astonishing growth; I have seen shoots of one year's age eight feet long; six feet is quite common. The whole timbered country is full of wild plum trees, which answer well as grafting-stocks. A common error is to set grafts too high upon these; the graft outgrows the stock, which is of slow growth, and after a few years the tree becomes top-heavy, and is liable to be broken down by the wind. This is prevented by grafting but a few inches above the roots, and working the soil up to the place of union. Good plums, with us, are sold from 8 to 12½ cents per quart.—*G. de Neven, Fond du Lac, Wis.*

Pruning Trees—Valuable Hints.—I think most people prune too much. The tap-root is cut off when the tree is planted, and all the branches, for at least six feet from the ground, and in some cases they are pruned so severely, that a man on horseback could ride round them without touching his hat to the few limbs that are left. Thus the trees are treated with downright cruelty. The result is, the bodies of the trees are more or less affected with the "sun-scald." However we may respect the customs of our fathers and grandfathers, we are not obliged to copy their errors. To preserve the pear and other fruit trees that have been deprived of their much-needed dress and ornament, we wind the bodies with wreaths of hay, or shade them by cotton cloth from the ground upwards to the lower branches. Where this is done, in every instance it has afforded a sure protection from sun-scalds. I have long been convinced of the great benefit of permitting all fruit trees to branch near the ground, suffering them to form the shape of a pyramid.—*H. Little, Bangor, Me.*

Why does the sting of an insect leave pain?—Because the sting is hollow, and conveys from a bag or sack, with which it communicates, a poisonous fluid that irritates the wound.

From what is the word "electricity" derived?—From a Greek word signifying "amber," because it was in the friction of this substance that it was first discovered.