

### PROTECTING FRUIT TREES FROM MICE.

Please tell me the best means for preserving fruit trees from the ravages of mice. I have suffered from this annoyance more or less every winter, without being able to check their operations, and if you could inform me of a good preventive, I would feel grateful.

ANSWER.—Men are very apt to smile at the studies of the naturalist, as though it were beneath man's dignity to busy himself with noting the habits of such very insignificant things as mice or insects; forgetting that it is in this way we are enabled successfully to protect ourselves from their depredations. Every farmer needs in some sense to be a naturalist, for he is continually exposed to losses from numerous tiny creatures that find their way to his fields, barns and orchard. It is just in this way we find a perfect method of preventing the ravages of mice among young trees. A little study of their habits shows that they will not live where they have nothing with which to protect themselves or in or under which they can build their nests. If then we remove from the orchard everything that can afford them a shelter, we will get rid of the mice. If the orchard be thoroughly and cleanly tilled no grass or weeds allowed to grow in it, no old stumps, logs or the like left for mice to hide under, the links of the fence well cleaned of sods, &c., for the compost heap, there will not a mouse stay in the orchard, not a tree shew the scratch of a tooth. Nor is this all—the trees will be healthier and grow more vigorously, and the cleanings from the fence links, when well rotted, will be an excellent dressing for the trees. We have known of various expedients being resorted to, such as painting the butt of the trees with coal tar, placing a sheet iron hoop around them, or a heap of tan bark.

### VALUE OF FRUIT.

It is a fact that fruit is a great regulator of the human system. It will keep the blood in order, the bowels regular, tone up the stomach, and is positively a specific in many diseases. It is said of a doctor who became largely interested in peach growing, that he recommended peaches to his patients on all occasions. The story was told to illustrate the man's meanness; but if he was mean it was a meanness that benefited his patients. If men were wise they would spend two days in a vineyard or orchard to every five minutes in a drug-store when anything is the matter with them. If you have dyspepsia, eat fruit. Did you ever think what a doctor gives for dyspepsia? He gives an acid. Fruit will furnish a better acid than the drug-store will. Do you know what the doctors dose you with when your liver is out of order? With acids. Then why not supply the remedy yourself from your own garden? Why continue to have your medicine done up in such a repulsive mixture when nature furnishes it in so palatable a shape. Every home should have at least one grape vine. Once in possession it would be almost above price.—*Western Farmer.*

### WASTE OF LAND IN FENCES.

If a farm of 160 acres is divided by fences into fields of ten acres each, there are five miles of fence. If each fence-row is one rod wide, no less than ten acres of land are occupied by them. This is equal to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the farm, and the loss of use of the land is exactly equal to a charge of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the whole value of the farm. But nearly every fence row in the country is made a nursery for weeds which stock the whole farm, and make an immense amount of labor necessary to keep them from smothering the crops. Much