

VARIETIES OF PRUNES.

SIR,—Would you be so kind as to inform us whether the Italian prune, French prune, Prune d'Agen and Fellemburg are the same, or names of different varieties?

ALLAN BROS, *Winona, Ont.*

The Fellemburg is an Italian prune, and the Prune d'Agen is a French prune. The terms Italian, French and German prune are somewhat general, and may each include several varieties, having similar characteristics. For instance, there is a variety of the German prune grown at Collingwood, known as Baker's German Prune, which is counted by them the most profitable plum that can be grown in that district for market.

There is a prune known as the French prune or Petite prune, a good bearer and excellent for drying, but it is not of as good quality as the Prune d'Agen, and not as hardy. Mr. Felix Gillet, a famous plum grower of California, says of the latter: "This is the kind that produces the famous French prune, shipped all over the world from Bordeaux; it is the very variety cultivated in the great prune district of the Lot, with Agen for an entrepôt. It is of medium to large size, sometimes quite large; and generally pear-shaped, tapering toward the stem. Very productive." It must be grown on the plum root.

 THE MOUNTAIN BEET APPLE.

SIR,—I see in our HORTICULTURIST for the year 1878, page 50, Dr. Hoskins describes an apple called the Mountain Beet. Can you give any information about it? I have been looking for a report of it, but have never seen it spoken of since.

J. PEGG, *Kolapore.*

Reply by Dr. Hoskins, Newport, Vt.

Regarding the apple called Mountain Beet, I regard it simply as a curiosity in having a red flesh. It has no particular value otherwise, and like so many Quebec apples, it suffers greatly from the spot fungus.

 PEARS FOR THE NORTH.

SIR,—Will you please tell us through the HORTICULTURIST, what would be the two best kinds of pears for this section of country?

L. PASCHE, *Bryson, Que.*

Among our first quality pears, there is perhaps none, more often commended for northern sections, than the Flemish Beauty, for, although worthless in southern Ontario, on account of the scab, it is one of the best at the north. The late Charles Gibb recommended it for the Province of Quebec, and, in addition, the following three: Clapp's Favorite, Oswego Beurré and St. Ghislain.