

BOOK ON WINE MAKING.

No. 479.

SIR,—I would like to have a book as a practical guide in manufacturing wine, with recipes. Could you supply me with one, and at what price.?

O. GAGNON, *Montreal, Que.*

One of the best works on this subject is "Grape Growing and Wine Making," by Prof. Geo. Husmann, who is a recognized authority in the United States on this subject. The price of the book is \$1.50.

SUMMER PRUNING OF THE GRAPE.

No. 480.

SIR,—My grape vines are growing so profusely that I do not know when, or how much, to prune them. A few lines from you would very much oblige me. Please instruct me.

W.M. McMURRAY, *The Rectory, Niagara, Ont.*

Summer pruning of the grape receives less attention in Canada than it deserves. The reason is found in this, that the fruit growers all have too much work on their hands, in the summer time, to attend to this important operation. As we prosper more and understand our business better, we shall, no doubt, do better work. If we knew fully what is meant by summer pruning, and appreciated its benefits more fully, we would, no doubt, find ways, even in the busy season, of getting the work done. Most growers think it means thinning out of the wood and foliage, at any time during the summer; but this is wide of the mark. Perhaps a better term for the operation would be "summer pinching," which more properly describes it. Summer pruning, if indulged in too freely and too late in the season, will seriously weaken the tree or vine, while pinching is simply directing the young wood where it is most wanted. Severe pruning of the young vineyards in July and August would be more injurious than beneficial. The mischief brought about by neglect, early in the season, is accomplished, the growth has taken place just where it is least wanted; and now it is better to leave the vineyard untouched, excepting, of course, such tying as is necessary, until after fruiting season, allowing the vines to have the full benefit of the young leaves, which they have spent so much energy in producing.

Pinching off the young wood growth, just as it extends two or three joints beyond the last bunch of grapes, is very important. The energy of the vine is thereby directed to strengthen the fruit stalk and to increase the size of the fruit. If the buds at the axis of the leaves are thereby started into growth, they also should be pinched several times in the season, if necessary. In this way the sap is concentrated about that part where we most want it, namely, in the vicinity of the fruit.

Many people say they see no use at all in summer pruning, and, indeed, this appears to be the general opinion in the commercial vineyards in Southern