

years, checking the strongest and encouraging the weakest, until the head of the tree is well formed. After that the main object will be to prevent the wood from getting too thick; and a great deal may be done at this early stage by rubbing off the tender shoots in spring by the hand, instead of the knife. But when the wood hardens the knife must be used, and a saw may be sometimes necessary. When this is used, the cuts should always be made smooth with a knife. Pruning may be done at any time while the wood is growing, as the wounds heal quicker at that time. It is better to prune a little every year than to allow the wood to get thick, and to prune heavy once in two three years. As the orchard grows larger, the pruning must be strictly attended to, and it will be necessary to manure it every three or four years with some well rotted compost, digging it well in around the trees, at the same time taking care not to injure the roots. This is the way I have managed my orchard, and in the sixth year after setting out they grew from three to five bushels of apples to a tree.

*Diseases of Fruit Trees.*—The disease I suffer most from is what is called Frozen Sap, or Fire Blight. As soon as it strikes a tree, it immediately turns black, and will soon die if the part affected is not cut away. Writers differ greatly as to the cause of it. Some think the sap being frozen after some warm day in winter, is the cause. Others think the heat of the sun is, and others again, think it an insect. But whatever be the cause, the only remedy is to cut away the part affected into the sound wood. There are three kinds of lice that infest fruit trees: the Aphis or Plant Louse, the Woolly Aphis, and the Scaly Aphis. The first fastens on to young buds and shoots, sucking the sap, and preventing their growth. A sprinkling of soap suds will banish them. The second kind fastens on any part of a limb, and will soon girdle it if not removed; a whitewash of lime and soap suds will destroy them. The third kind, the Bark Louse, is the worst here. They fasten on a young tree and will soon kill it if not removed. Their nests are exactly the colour of the bark, and there are from thirty to fifty eggs in each nest. The cure is to scrub the limbs they infest with strong ley about the end of May or beginning of June. Caterpillars are also more or less destructive to the young leaves and fruit. They require sharp watching: a sudden shake of the tree in the morning or evening will throw them down and you can then kill them. In short every individual

tree in your orchard, like your farm stock, will require watchful care and strict attention, for which they will soon repay you. But if neglected, you will find them a constant source of irritation and trouble.

## INQUIRIES AND ANSWERS.

### *To the Editors of the Agriculturist.*

I see in the *Country Gentleman* and other agricultural papers, there is a column of "Inquiries and Answers," "Queries," &c., wherein much useful information is elicited. Would it not be well to have one in the *Agriculturist*?

H. B.

[We should be happy to give such a column in the *Agriculturist*. The chief difficulty we have to contend with is, that no one sends us the inquiries, except a stray one or two now and then.]

## ON RINGING PIGS.

### *To the Editors of the Agriculturist.*

MR. EDITOR,—I think you will agree with me, that it looks unseemly, and shows want of management, to see a farmer's homestead and fields turned up in the spring, by his pigs, like a fallow field, when so little labour and cost will remedy the evil. If we had to employ the blacksmith to make the rings, and insert them as we used to do in England, it would be some excuse for neglecting the business, but as the remedy is ready, cheap and efficient, I give it for the benefit of those who are no better acquainted with the subject than I was a few years ago.

If you have not the misfortune to be a bachelor, your wife or daughters will have an old bonnet or two thrown away, with the wire in them: take this wire, run it through the flame of a candle to take off the covering, use a little sandpaper to brighten it, cut it into lengths of 4 or 5 inches according to the size of your pigs, file or grind one end sharp, and they are fit for use. If you buy your wire, get stout bonnet wire, or rather annealed wire; then take a rope the size of a bed-cord, make a large noose by tying a slip knot at one end of it, put the noose in the pig's mouth above his tusks, draw it tight, let your assistant haul him near to a post or rail, about three feet high, bestride his neck,