

neglect of pruning by many grape-growers. Year after year, the tangled, matted masses of wood continue to grow more and more tangled, until all hope of better things is dead.

The old system of staking the vines is still followed in some parts of the country; a much more expensive method than that of the post and wire, as well as more troublesome to keep in order; besides, it allows no satisfactory method of pruning. The simplest possible trellis is the post and wire, for which solid posts six feet high may be placed forty-five



FIG. 13.—BRACING WITH WIRE.

feet apart, and stakes at distances of fifteen feet between, to all of which the wire is stapled. Three strands of galvanized wire, No. 13, or even as small as No. 16, may be used, the lower one about two feet from the surface of the ground. A very simple method of bracing posts is used about Grimsby, by which wires are tightly strung from the top of the post to a flat stone about which it is wound, and which is buried a few inches below the surface.

It is very important to follow some system in pruning. A hap-hazard method may do for a time, but, as the vineyard ages, the mistake will be very evident. The fan system, as employed in many places, is no system, and in time will leave the vines in a very unsatisfactory condition. By it, the young wood is constantly being removed farther and farther from the root, and the great ugly stalks are too unwieldy to be ever put down for protection. For the Concord and Worden, winter protection in Southern Ontario may not be necessary, but for the Rogers grapes, there is no doubt about its importance.

Another method, known as the Kniffen System, is open to the same objection, though in a less degree. This system is shown in Fig. 14, and has some good points, for the pruning consists only in spurring back to the four arms, and little tying is needed, as the young wood can hang down from the two wires. On the whole, this is, perhaps, a commendable method for the busy farmer, who cannot find time to tie up the young wood in early summer.

The most satisfactory method is, no doubt, the Renewal System, or some modification of it, as described in Vol. XII., p. 66; for although it may

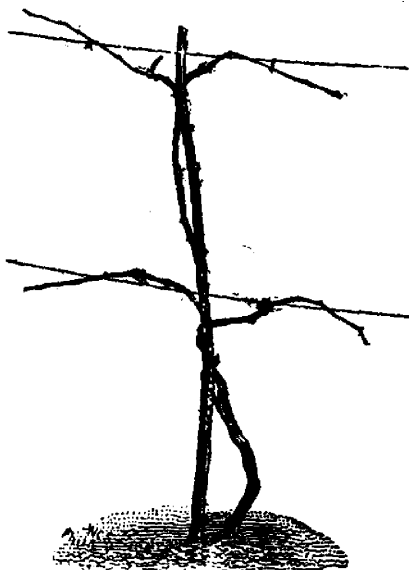


FIG. 14.—KNIFFEN SYSTEM.