

ornamental planting. Indeed, where these are procurable, we can see no reason for applying to the nurseries for exotics, which may or may not be adapted to the locality in which you live. It is, however, difficult to remove trees from shady places and to make them grow well in sunny exposures, without first accustoming them to the change by degrees. Large trees, too, are less apt to succeed than smaller ones, on account of the greater loss of roots in proportion to the top. It would be better, no doubt, to set aside a small piece of the garden for a year or two, as a nursery plot; and then to select a good collection of our native trees of small size, and grow them with care until they have developed a quantity of fibrous roots, and have acquired vigor to insure their growth in the places where they are required. On the whole, we advocate spring in preference to fall planting, especially in the colder sections of our country.

THE PEAR BLIGHT.

95. SIR,—I have an orchard of fifty trees, and something has caused their leaves to blacken and a great many of the limbs to die. Can you tell me the cause of this, and say if I can prevent its spread?—JOHN McLEAN, *Mount Pleasant*.

Our correspondent does not say whether his orchard consists of pear or apple trees, but we presume the former. The blight has been so often referred to in these pages that it seems unnecessary to make any further explanation of it here. It is thought by scientists that the pear blight is due to bacteria, the presence of which, in plants and in animals, account for so many hitherto unexplained diseases. The little microbes, which are the germs of the disease, escape from blighted limbs of one tree and float imperceptibly to others; they find entrance through little stomata, or breathing pores of the leaves or young wood; they multiply with exceeding great rapidity in the wood cells, from one to another of which they have a peculiar faculty of making their way by making holes through the thin partitions. Thus, unless checked in some way, the sap of a large portion, if not of a whole tree, becomes corrupted through their action, and

suddenly turns black and dies. The only cure, therefore, with which we are acquainted, is to cut off every vestige of the blight as soon as it is discovered. A sharp look-out for it should be made during blossoming time, in the spring.

BUSINESS MEN AS FRUIT GROWERS.

96. SIR,—I would like your advice as to the most suitable book for me on fruit culture. I am a tailor by trade, in business here some years, and *quite green* at fruit growing. Many years ago I was very nearly attempting the same thing, but circumstances thwarted me; business since has fully occupied me. About six miles from my place of business, between Lambton Mills and Weston, I have some land lying idle. One field of sixteen acres, with a few stumps on, I am told, has yielded good crops, and field of five acres, gravelly. Both fields are level plateaux. These, and a few other fields, are almost wholly surrounded by the Humber river and Black Creek flats. The five acre field is delightfully situated, commanding a good view. I prefer it, but suppose it would hardly pay cultivation. If you could tender me any advice as to fencing, ploughing and generally getting it under weight, whether advisable to put in a few trees and try my hand in a small way, or hire a man and go in larger, I would feel obliged.—THOS. H. TAYLOR, 518 *Queen Street, W., Toronto*.

We hesitate very much to advise any man to engage in fruit growing who is entirely inexperienced in the business. It is hard enough for those of us, who have spent years devoted to the study and practice of this branch of agriculture, to get very rich at the business; and, on the other hand, it would be quite easy for an inexperienced man to lose what property he had. We believe in fruit culture, properly and systematically pursued, as one of the most profitable branches of agriculture, but we cannot advise a man whose life has been spent in a trade, or in mercantile life, to enter into fruit culture for profit. The best plan for our correspondent is to try it first on a small scale, if he intends managing it himself; or, if he can find a gardener who would grow small fruits on shares, finding implements and team, then try it on a large scale. The gardener would no doubt agree to allowing pear, peach, quince trees and grape vines to be planted.