

the mould well primed about them. When is done, give a good watering, and set aside on an outside border, where they remain until there is appearance of frost; remove them under cover, lay on their side, put on a good covering of straw to protect severe frost during winter. Examine them gently in their winter quarters in case attacks of rats or mice. When spring arrives, uncover and place them in the orchard; at first, water sparingly, but as vegetation begins to move and the plants commence, watering is increased. Ventilate freely if the weather is favourable. Trees are classed as pyramids, dwarfs, or bushes. During the season of growth particular attention is paid to the form of the trees. Care must be taken in pruning and stopping, the only means by which a well proportioned tree is got at, and well furnished with fruit spurs. The syringe must be used freely morning and evening, when the trees are in blossom. When at this stage they are subject to be attacked by the aphids; must be carefully watched, and when they show their appearance, either fumigate or wash with tobacco water. Some of the young trees will show fruit buds the first season, even produce fruit, but this must not be relied on, as it is injurious to the future welfare of the tree.

For fruit trees are all top-dressed in fall or spring, the latter period I prefer in this country, the trees being kept in a dry state all winter exhausts the soil. If this is properly attended to it is not necessary to change the pots for a year or two of years. We use the same compost in potting as is formerly recommended in potting trees. Take the old mould out about half down the pot, taking care not to injure the rootlets or spongioses that are clustered round the stem. When that is done, we fill up the space with fresh compost, ram it firmly down with a piece of stick made for the purpose; give a good watering, thoroughly wetting the whole of the ball. The old trees taken out of the pots, if examined, will be quite exhausted, and full of small fibrous roots, the greater portion of which will be found dead or dying; this is a natural consequence, they having done their work.

In pot culture there is an annual provision of rootlets emanating from the stem as they referred to, they get hold of the fresh soil, very soon run through it, and become principal feeders of the tree. We occasionally use liquid manure for all our trees during the growing season, but only by the hand of a experienced person, otherwise there would risk, many of the liquids being very powerful.

When it can be obtained, a liquid from droppings is very excellent, and may be used without danger. When the trees are in the open air is given freely, but if so at an early period in the season, when the weather will

not permit of it, or of the bees being in to assist in the work of impregnation, we must do it by occasionally giving the stem of the tree a gentle rap with a stick when in bloom, always making choice of a clear day. We find this simple method quite sufficient for the dispersion of the pollen. Those having plenty of time at their command may do this nice piece of work with a camel's hair brush, and do it very effectually by passing the same slightly over the anthers when the pollen is full up. This is a very interesting piece of work. Care must be taken in thinning the fruit in proper time, and not to over-crop the trees. In dry weather continue to give plenty of water, be watchful of the red spider, and all other pests that affect the trees at this season. When the fruit is well advanced give plenty of air both day and night, without which the fruit will not be high in flavour.

For vines, add to the former compost a little crushed bones, giving plenty of water; and as soon as the roots begin to fill the pots give a good watering with liquid manure every third day; attend punctually to stopping the shoots and laterals; stop one joint above the fruit branch, and the laterals two from base on the shoot they spring from.

In conclusion, I beg to state I might have gone more minutely into this subject, but my main object was to convey to you my views as shortly and briefly as possible, trusting you will all encourage the orchard house and pot culture.

The Poultry Ward.

Something about Hens.

A correspondent of the *N. H. Journal of Agriculture* says: "It is a pleasant recreation to tend and feed a bevy of laying hens. They may be trained to follow the children, and will lay in a box. Egg shells contain lime, and in the winter when the earth is bound with frosts or covered with snow, if lime is not provided they will not lay—or if they do lay the eggs will of necessity, be without shells. Old rubbish lime from chimneys and buildings is proper, and only needs to be broken for them. They will often attempt to swallow pieces as large as a walnut. I have often heard it said buckwheat is the best food for hens; but I doubt it. They will sing over Indian corn with more animation than any other grain. The singing hen will certainly lay eggs, if she finds all things agreeable to her; but the hen is such a prude, as watchful as a weazel, and as fastidious as a hypocrite—she must, she will have secrecy and mystery about her nest—all eyes but her own must be averted—follow her, or watch her, and she will forsake her nest and stop laying. She is best pleased with a box, covered at the top, with a backside aperture for light, and side door by which she can escape unseen. A farmer may