

"bleeding" will continue perhaps for a long time.

So much concerning the time of pruning; now concerning the MANNER. No; we wholly condemn the common custom of neglecting to prune until the limbs are very large, or cutting them out in such a way as to leave a stump sticking out from the trunk. We copy from the *American Garden* an illustration, figure 13, showing the evil effects of such faulty pruning, where the dead stubs are gradually introducing decay into the heart of the tree, soon to cause a hollow trunk, and early death; and figure 14, where at *d* a limb has been lopped off closely, and so healed that the scar is scarcely observable; while at *e* some have been removed in such a way as to leave open basins almost beyond the power of nature to heal. Large limbs should never be removed, if possible to avoid it, but, if necessary, they should immediately be covered with some preparation which will exclude the air. For this purpose various preparations have been recommended, as a coating of thick paint, or of coal tar of such a consistency that it may be applied with a brush. Mr. Downing recommends the following composition viz.: Take a quart of alcohol and dissolve in it as much green shellac as will make a liquid of the consistency of paint. Apply with brush. Keep it in a well corked bottle, sufficiently wide mouthed to admit the brush, and it will always be ready for use.

Neither do we believe in removing the large limbs in the centre of the tree to let in the sunlight. The right and the wrong ideal of the

form the pruner should have in mind when at his work are well shown in figures 15 and 16, in the first of which the limbs have been removed according to the reckless butchery so



FIG. 15.

often performed upon our helpless apple orchards, and which is one cause of the decrepit, half-dead appearance such orchards usually present.

The second represents a tree which has been allowed to grow according



FIG. 16.

to its natural inclination, and the pruning has been simply an annual thinning of such small branches as threaten to cross others, or thicken the head too closely, and in this way the removal of large limbs is altogether avoided. Such a tree will live in health and vigor to almost twice the age of the former. The