

used other trees in that way for fences, and I find the plan works well, if I first nail a narrow strip up the trunk of the tree, and drive the staple into that. What

#### PINES

do you esteem most highly?"

"The Austrian and the Scotch pines I consider most desirable, they are so hardy, succeed so generally, the dark foliage is so handsome, that they are much used in parks and pleasure grounds. But the prettiest pine for a

private lawn, I know of, is *Pinus Combra*, which you noticed in the October No. of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST for 1887. There on my lawn you see two specimens. Their pyramidal form and silvery green foliage combine in making them great favorites."

After receiving the kindest hospitality at his home, the writer parted from Mr. Leslie, having enjoyed a most profitable visit, to the advantage, we hope, of the readers of these columns.

### ADVICE ABOUT NEW FRUITS.

BY JOHN LITTLE, GRANTON, ONT.

I AM interested in the small fruit growing, especially the strawberry, and in taking a number of horticultural papers. Canadian and American, I come across articles of correspondence containing a good deal of sense and nonsense too.

Every year there appears to be great excitement among the nurserymen over the discovery of a new strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, grape or currant. It is generally said to have originated ten or twelve years ago on some cold, rocky barren place, or on the northeast corner of some hill-top. It yields enormously of the "most luscious, sprightly, subacid fruit," is worm, bug, fly, and weatherproof: and is immensely superior to any thing of the kind now under cultivation. Baskets of the choicest fruit are sent to prominent horticulturists, whose letters returning thanks for the favor, be they ever so guarded and carefully worded, are deftly sandwiched between the testimonials of interested parties, and published as eulogiums.

Sometimes a new fruit is kept before the public by every means known and unknown for three or four years before

it is offered for sale. The plants in the meantime are increased and multiplied by all the most rapid methods known to horticulturists, when the manipulators think the public appetite is sufficiently whetted, they suddenly and with great blare of trumpets spring their stock on the market, sell out at incredible prices, pocket the funds, then quietly return to private life and enjoy themselves. The fruit may be well adapted to a small section of the country, and worthless elsewhere; and in two or three years it may be bought cheap as the cheapest. Occasionally a variety is introduced that really is superior in some respects to any we have, and is adapted to a wide range of country. By far the largest portion of new sorts, are only adapted to certain localities or particular soils.

The only sure means of ascertaining which is best is by testing them, and this may be easily and cheaply done. In the first place, do not buy five-dollar grape vines; do not throw away money on blackberry and raspberry plants at one dollar each; do not squander your money on currant and gooseberry plants, at even seventy-five cents each.