

But with mixed lots, less than carloads, it is better to take \$1, or even 75cts. per barrel for the fruit at home, than risk a possible loss by shipping so far.

But at even \$1 a barrel, I ask what farm crop pays better. Take for example an acre planted entirely with Baldwins and Greenings, and what will it pay you at those prices? Suppose you only get 100 barrels a year on an average from it, what other crop would give you \$75 or \$100 per acre with less labor.

Of course it is expensive work planting and raising an apple orchard, a heavy investment; but I am not urging the planting of new orchards so much as the better care of those we have.

7. Poor Varieties.

Perhaps you have not the most profitable kinds; then top graft and you will soon have those varieties which are proved most desirable. The work of grafting is not difficult or mysterious but quite practicable by any one who can handle his knife skillfully; for old trees a method known as crown grafting is very well adapted, as figured in a recent number of the *Rural New Yorker* and by favor of the editor we are enabled to give our readers the following description of it with an excellent illustration.

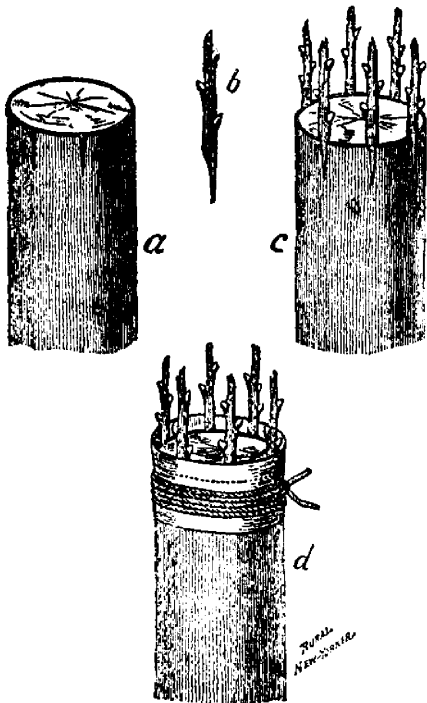


FIG. 961.—CROWN GRAFTING

"The following is an easy and effective method of grafting old trees. By it the percentage of failure is reduced to a minimum, and branches at least six inches in diameter, and, in the case of pear trees 75 years old, may be worked with assured success. Last year we mentioned the case of such a pear tree having been grafted two years before with the Kieffer, that gave a full crop last fall. Saw off the branch at right angles to the stem to be grafted, as at Fig. a. Then cut a clean slit in the bark through to the wood, the same as in budding. Separate the bark from the wood and insert the cion b, one for each slit. The number of slits for each stock will be determined by its size. We will suppose the stock illustrated to be six inches in diameter, and that six cions are to be inserted. The stock after receiving the six cions is shown at c. Grafting wax is not needed. A thick paper may be wound about the top of the stock extending about one inch above it and securely tied with a strong twine as