

dead wood is a most destructive material. Bury a few dead sticks at the roots of a rose or lilac tree, and watch what follows—the tree will, in a few months, begin to languish, and at last will perish altogether. Take it up and examine the roots, and you will find that the dead sticks gave rise to the growth of fungus, which has covered them with white threads; these threads have taken hold of the living roots, and have utterly checked their vegetative power, and even the soil all round them is tinged of a ghastly blue, and would poison whatever might be planted in it. I have lately seen so many instances of the pernicious effects of decaying wood, that I would never more allow a single inch of dead stick to lie about anywhere, unless I knew that these underground fungi were unknown in the neighbourhood. Two winters ago, I had to remove the whole of the soil from a border 200 feet long, owing to the state it had been brought to by an old fence, the posts of which had rotted, and spread the fungi about to such an extent that entire cart-loads were removed, in which there was not a single spadeful of soil of its natural colour; it was uniformly tinged with a grayish blue, and smelt powerfully of toadstools. In such stuff as that nothing will grow, and trees and shrubs rapidly contract the disease about their roots, so as to become positively rotten from the collar downwards, and all the pruning, manuring, and watering that can be given them is so much labour and material wasted.

“With trees so affected, there is but one course,—to burn them. I have tried washing, scrubbing, painting their roots with lime and soot, and other plans which suggested themselves, but I never yet saw any tree or shrub that had become much contaminated with this fungus growth, recover sufficiently to be worth the labor expended on it. If touched only here and there, those parts must be cut away, and the tree planted in fresh soil; if much affected, burn it, and there end the vexation. As to the fungus itself, it rapidly perishes on exposure to the air. It can exist only underground; therefore, a thorough exposure of the soil in which it has spread will speedily kill it, and if, on the dressing of the ground in autumn, or early in the year, a few barrow-loads of such stuff have to be taken out, it may be used to fill up hollows on lawns, or laid in heaps somewhere out of the way, for the sun to purify it.

GARDEN WALKS.—No garden can look well without neat walks, and no walk can be neat unless well made and drained. For keeping down weeds, or rather grass, which will appear at the edges of the best constructed walks, because the earth will wash upon it from the grass, there is nothing like salt. But the making of walks is so important a matter, that we give the author's remarks entire:—

“Walks should be so made as to be hard and dry all the year round, and unless well drained and with a good foundation, this is impossible. A mere surfacing of gravel on a soft bottom may do very well for summer wear, and even then will be continually broken up by worms; but during continued rains, and

all through the winter, every footmark will leave a hole, and it will be impossible to traverse it without getting the feet plastered with mud. In small gardens there is no better place for a pipe-drain than under the main walk. The drain should be laid at from two to three feet deep, according to the level of the outlet. In making a walk, let the bottom be taken out and the whole of the loam removed to the depth of a foot. Then lay down six inches of whatever hard rubbish can be got—such as factory clinkers, builders' rubbish, &c.,—and over this spread a layer of old mortar or lime rubbish and coal ashes, mixed together, quite to the level at which the walk is to remain. Give the whole a good rolling, and leave it to settle. If made in the autumn, the wheeling during winter-work will tend to consolidate it, and before spring will have sunk so as to allow of two or three inches gravel. With proper rolling the walk will sink the first summer as as to make another coat of gravel requisite, and if this is laid down when the garden is in its full autumn splendor, the appearance of the scene will be much improved, and a thoroughly good path insured for the winter. The plentiful use of lime, whenever it can be had cheap, is a good preventive of worms, which play sad havoc with walks imperfectly made. To keep a walk in order, let the roller be used liberally after a rain; and in spring, when weeds first make their appearance, get them out at once by hand-picking; if allowed to get strong, there is often no remedy but turning the walk and raking the weeds out from among the gravel. In small gardens it is but a little labor to clear away all the weeds by using a pointed trowel when the gravel is wet with rain, and then giving a good rolling to close up the holes.

Garden Seats.

The garden may be laid out with care and taste, and be planted with the choicest trees and shrubs, yet if destitute of convenient seats, it lacks a feature which gives an air of quiet comfort and ease to the whole scene. The garden is for pleasure and ease; it is in fact the summer parlor; and the real parlor is of no use in the summer season, where the garden is what it should be, except as a shelter from a sudden shower. Place in the garden, then, seats at all convenient points—under the shade of the trees, and on the lawn, at points where a good view of the grounds or the surrounding country can be obtained. This we advise not only for large places, but even for small gardens of a quarter of an acre or less.

In some cases and situations it would be well to build a summer-house or arbor, with sufficient roofing to afford shade. This is particularly necessary in new places, before the trees are sufficiently grown to afford proper shade and shelter. But the more simply everything of this kind is done, the better. There should be no attempt at anything very fine. This may be well enough in some of the gardens of Europe, where everything is in keeping; but in our places, the more plain and unpretending the better. Rustic work, if well made, always looks well. A very pretty seat can be formed around even a small tree.