

wood of the previous year's growth, cutting out the weak shoots, and such as grow in a direction in which they are not needed, being careful to keep the tree open.

Vines bear on the young shoots of the same season. In pruning these, all weak shoots should be taken out, retaining only the strongest rods or canes; these should be shortened according to their strength; the object to be aimed at, is to retain only such a quantity of buds as will break strong. Care will be necessary so as not to retain more rods than the space occupied by the view will allow of, and placing them in such positions as will allow free circulation of the air, and freely admit the rays of the sun.

Gooseberry bushes bear on the young shoots of the previous season's growth. In pruning them cut out all cross shoots, retaining only the strong straight shoots of the previous year's growth: of these retain only the best and most ripened wood. Gooseberry bushes cannot be left too open; if you allow the branches to get crowded, you cannot expect fine fruit; air must be admitted freely among the branches to obtain good fruit. The black currant also bears on the young wood, and should be pruned in a similar manner to the gooseberry. The red and white currant produce their fruit on spurs of old wood; in pruning them, care will be necessary to form an open bush, with the bearing branches, which should be stopped to induce them to bear, and all the other young wood should be cut back to two or three eyes, being careful to keep the bush open.

In pruning, it is necessary to cut clean and smooth with a sharp knife, and all young shoots that come where they are not needed, should be cut clean out close to the main stem, so as to leave no eyes to fill the tree with useless wood.

In giving directions for pruning, it is impossible to give directions which branch should be taken out, and which left in; only the principles of the system can be given in writing; the relative position of the branches can only be determined by actual observation; the operator, if he understands the principles and nature of the tree, will be able to determine on this point.—The above remarks will give him the requisite information on the principles that should guide him in the operation.—*Exchange*.

WASH FOR THE HAIR—Olive oil, half an ounce; oil rosemary, one drachm; strong hartshorn, two drachms; rose water, half a pint. Add the rose water by degrees, otherwise it will not amalgamate.

THE WREN, vs. CHERRY BIRDS.

The common house wren, which is known to everybody on account of his lively song and his pugnacious habits, is found in all parts of the United States, and is an indefatigable destroyer of insects, "The immense numbers of insects (says Alex. Wilson,) which this little sociable bird removes from the garden and fruit trees, ought to endear him to every cultivator, even if he had nothing else to recommend him. But his notes, loud, sprightly, tremulous, and repeated every few seconds with great animation, are extremely agreeable." It feeds on insects and caterpillars, and while supplying the wants of its young, it destroys, on a moderate calculation, many hundreds a day, and greatly circumscribes the ravages of these vermin. The wrens are not confined to the country. They are to be heard on the tops of houses, in the central parts of our cities, singing with great energy. Scarcely a house or a cottage in the country is without at least a pair of them. It is said by a friend to this little bird, that the esculent vegetables of a whole garden might, perhaps, be preserved from the depredations of insects by a few pairs of these small birds.

The wren is often seen running over the fences and stone walls like a little squirrel, creeping in and out of holes and the crevices of wood-piles, hunting for various kinds of insects, particularly for spiders and moths, that lie concealed in these retreats. It is curious to observe the celerity with which he moves about on these hunting expeditions, running so unlike a bird that he is often mistaken for a mouse. The wren is very pugnacious, and will drive away other birds that intrude upon what he regards as his own premises. This trait in his character may be made to serve a useful purpose, rendering him guardian of our cherry trees during the ripening of their fruit. Place a wren box upon the cherry tree you wish to protect, in May, and it will seldom fail to be occupied by a pair of wrens.—These little birds, from that time regarding the cherry tree as their own property, will not only devour all the insects that infest its leaves and branches, but will also drive away every bird that alights upon the tree. When the fruit is ripe, no robin or any other bird that comes there to eat the cherries is allowed one moment's peace, and, by the pugnacity of the little pair who have built their nest upon the tree, the fruit is saved. *Hovey's Magazine*