

not more than a year old, plant it where you wish it to stand, and allow it to grow straight up. Once a week all shoots must be broken off as soon as they can be handled. Break no leaves off the main trunk. Keep this up until a month before frost is expected. The main trunk will ripen its wood sufficiently to endure the winter. About the time of the first hard frost, carefully bend the trunk to the ground, and then fasten it there by a hooked stick driven into the earth, as at *b*. When the winter has fairly set in,

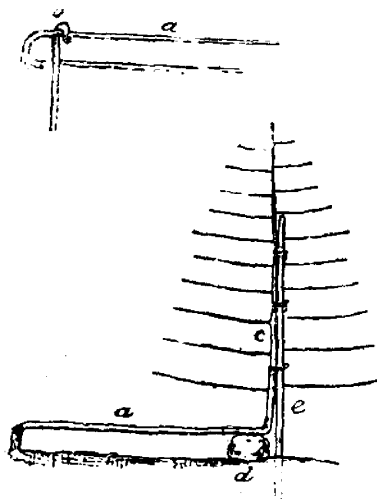


FIG. 88.

place a few evergreen boughs or straw over the whole length of the tree, with some light sticks on the covering to keep it from being blown off. In the spring, when the frost is out of the ground, remove covering and the stick that holds the tree down, and allow the latter to resume its upright position. After it has started to grow, cut off the side branches, leaving but one bud to grow, and treat in the same way as during the previous season. By the fall the trunk will be from six to

ten feet high, long enough for a first trial; bend it to the ground and cover. In the spring, leave the tree down, and allow only one bud to grow. This will push straight up and send out branches, only a few of which should be allowed to grow, and they should be trained fan-shaped, parallel with the horizontal trunk. Be sure to have a stout stake driven into the ground to fasten the upright trunk to. Other stakes may be driven along the side of the fan to fasten the branches to as needed. In the fall, loosen the head of the tree from all its stakes, and after placing straw or other material on the ground to keep the twigs off the soil, bring the head down sideways to the ground and fasten it there, then put on the covering. The horizontal trunk can, without injury, be twisted sufficiently to allow the head to lie on the ground, and this can be done for a good many years, for this horizontal trunk does not increase in size nearly so fast as the upright trunk does. It must be protected from the direct rays of the sun, else the bark will be killed all the way along the top. I lost some trees this way. I find the neatest way is to swathe the trunk in straw; with a twine string fasten it to the trunk. Be sure that no water can stand around any part of the tree at anytime during the winter. Keep the ground perfectly clean from weeds for a good way from the tree, and mice will not be likely to trouble it in winter, as experience proves that they do not run far on ground that is clear of grass or weeds. Do not cover too early, and do not put on too much covering. This method may appear to require a good deal of work, but when the trees once get into bearing you will find, as I do, that it is considerably less work to put down and cover a tree than it is to prune and cover a grapevine.