

weighs about 40 pounds (see fig. 11). The crane, or basket and hook holder, rotates, or may be shifted to either side of the operator, will support thirty pounds of fruit in basket with ease, and the legs all fold in when required. The object of the inventor to provide a safe stand, and at the same time increase the facilities of the operator in picking fruit, pruning trees, etc., giving him the full use of both hands, and placing the basket within easy reach of the same, thereby saving time in transporting the fruit from the tree to the basket. The inventor believes that by the use of this ladder a great saving of time will be effected in the picking of fruit, which is equivalent to a saving of money; also that fruit can be handled with less damage by bruising, etc., and therefore bring more money.



FIG. 12.—LADDER FOR DWARF PEAR TREES.

The *Ohio Farmer* illustrates a very convenient self-supporting stepladder for use in gathering fruit from high grown dwarf pear trees. Most of us know how difficult it is to use an ordinary ladder in a full grown dwarf pear orchard, for, either the ladder will bruise the fruit in placing, or will be so insecure as to render climbing unsafe. Fig. 12 represents the ladder referred to, and is so simple in construction that it needs no description. Its use in case of slender trees is plainly evident, whether pruning or fruit gathering is required to be done.

PRUNING THE GRAPE.

The best time to prune the vineyard is, no doubt, the month of November, when the weather is pleasant for the operator, and the vines need loosening from the trellises, and laying down for winter protection, especially at the north; but, if done in that month, they should be pruned a little longer than if left until March, because the severe weather of winter is very likely to destroy the last bud, or, at least, to weaken it. In practice, however, a great many postpone this work until the latter date, a time of chilling winds, muddy walking, and of bleeding vines. However, better late than never, and hence the following hints which may be of service to the beginner. It is astonishing to any one who is posted, to notice the