

Hardy Ornamental Shrubs.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—As the season for planting is fast approaching, perhaps the following remarks will not prove unacceptable to your many readers. Many of the shrubs sent out by the nurserymen are entirely too tender for the climate of Canada, but being easy of propagation, they are put forward as being all that is desirable.

The following list consists of really useful articles, all of which may be depended upon for ornamentation, either in the shrubbery, the border, or the lawn:—

Wiegelia Rosea.—This is a native of Japan, and is one of the handsomest and hardiest shrubs known—a free, vigorous grower, and very neat in its style. The flowers vary from whitish to dark pink, and are very freely produced. When in full blossom, it is a striking and beautiful object. Should be planted universally.

Pyrus Japonica.—Japan Quince, another Japanese, but totally different in every respect to the preceding one, being a low prostrate grower; but, withal, stout and very hardy. The wood is furnished with long thorns, and were it not difficult to propagate it, would make a good hedge plant where height was not desirable. Its bright scarlet flowers are produced early in spring, and are sure to attract attention. Should be much more widely planted than it now is. No garden or lawn is complete without one.

Deutzia Scabra.—Rough-leaved Deutzia, a fine erect growing and very useful shrub, not half as well known as it should be. It produces numerous spikes or racemes of white flowers, nearly resembling orange blossoms, and ought to be a favourite.

Spiraea Lanceolata.—Lance-leaved Spiraea, a most charming and graceful shrub, and one that should be in every garden. It is hardy and vigorous, although a slender grower; in its outline, elegant and airy, and a striking contrast in habit and growth to the one above mentioned. It produces a profusion of white blossoms, born in panicles, early in the season, and wherever known is always a favourite. There is a double variety of this species—*Spiraea Lanceolata*, fl. pl.—which deserves special attention for its great beauty and the profusion of its flowers.

Spiraea Colossa.—Another beautiful Chinese shrub, introduced by Mr. Fortune, and one of the most charming of this extensive genus. It is perfectly hardy, and flowers later in the season than any of those previously mentioned. The blossoms are borne in large corymbs, and are of a dark rose colour; altogether, a very showy and desirable plant. It has become a great favourite in England, and is considered by some the handsomest of all shrubs. Should be in every collection.

Spiraea Sorbifolia.—Mountain Ash-leaved Spiraea—Very distinct from either of the two last above-mentioned, although belonging to the same genus, its white, feathery inflorescence being very graceful, although the plant itself has a somewhat uncouth habit of growth. Its principal fault is the tendency it has to throw up suckers; nevertheless, being a hardy, useful plant, it should not be neglected.

I do not mean to say that the above list comprises all the hardy shrubs we now possess, but it will be found to contain the cream of the collection, and all the varieties mentioned may be relied upon, both for hardiness, beauty and utility. If it would prove acceptable to your readers, I shall be glad to give a short list of some of the half-hardy or tender sorts, and which, if care be taken of them, are very useful and ornamental.

W. T. G.

Planting Apple Trees.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—In perusing your second number I see new ideas on planting apple trees, to which it would be well to draw the attention of the public. It is wise to guard against planting too deep which is ruinous sooner or later to the tree. Shallow planting to the inexperienced would be a dangerous operation, depending on a small mound of loose earth around the tree. It is well known that the frost and winds have some action on a newly planted tree, which if not guarded against would have a tendency to lift them before they became established. By digging a hole large enough to take the roots in without crowding, placing the tree an inch or two lower than it was grown, and filling in with surface soil until the hole is filled up quite rounding to allow for its setting,

and with a slight mulching of some litter, you may expect the trees to stand the droughts of Canada.

Planting only eighteen feet apart may look very well at the end of five years, but where will they be in ten years if they grow as they should grow with horizontal branches and only nine feet space each way? How is the atmosphere to have an influence on the soil so densely shaded as it must be. It is well known that apple trees will not flourish in this climate with the branches entangled one with another, and to take a natural course they will in twenty years have the appearance of a natural forest with dead side branches, and their only fruit or foliage on the top, being the only branches exposed to the sun. Shelter is very important, but to plant apple trees for shelter and to go in with the axe when they become too thick, it would make it a difficult matter to decide which should be the victims, after bearing their golden fruit for many years. A forest tree in open ground, the beech or butternut for instance, will bear four times as much as it will in close woodland. The largest apple trees that I have seen were growing where they had plenty of space to stretch out their branches and form a round top, which gives the greatest surface possible. I have measured apple trees with trunks six and seven feet in circumference, but to attain this size it is not expected to get three bushels per tree five years from planting. It would be better to let a tree have its own natural time to come into bearing, some sooner and some later. Early bearing kinds do not attain such large size as those that form a top before they commence bearing. Before planting an orchard it would be well to weigh these matters, when once planted it is done for a lifetime, and not easy to be altered or improved.

Cobourg.

B. L.

NOTE BY ED. CANADA FARMER.—Will our correspondent please explain why he would plant the tree deeper than it stood in the nursery?

Queries about Grape Culture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR, Having read an interesting article in the last number of THE FARMER on the "culture of the grape vine," by W. S. of Woburn, I would esteem it a favour to be informed by your correspondent, through the same medium, of a few particulars regarding his "single short-cane principle":—

1st.—What distance apart should the vines be planted, so as to have no waste space on the trellis or walls, and yet sufficient?

2nd.—To about what length should the "short cane" be pruned?

3rd.—What length should the "very short lateral branches" be left, or how many buds or bunches of fruit should be allowed to each?

4th.—What five or six varieties would he recommend as the earliest and best for open-air culture in this country, taking into consideration the fact that many parts of Western Canada are not as favourable for the ripening of the fruit as that of Woburn?

Lindsay, 24th March, 1864.

J. K.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Our correspondent will find these questions answered in the communication by "W. S." headed "Grape Vine Culture," in the present number.

THE WAY THEY MAKE HOT-BEDS IN GERMANY.—Take white cotton cloth of a close texture, stretch and nail it on frames of any size you wish; take 2 oz. lime water, 4 oz. linseed oil, 1 oz. white of eggs, 2 oz. yolk of eggs; mix the oil and lime with very gentle heat, beat the eggs well separate, mix them with the former; spread the mixture with a paint-brush over the surface of the cotton, allowing each coat to dry before another is put on, until they become waterproof. The following are advantages this shade possesses over the glass one: First—The cost is hardly one-fourth. Second—Repairs are easily made. Third—they are light; they do not require watering, no matter how intense the heat of the sun. The plants are not struck down or burnt, faded, or checked in growth; neither do they grow up so long, sickly and weakly as they do under glass; and yet there is abundance of light. Fourth—The heat arising entirely from below is more equable and temperate, which is a great object. The vapour arising from manure and earth is condensed by the cool air passing over the shade, and stands in drops on the inside; and therefore the plants do not require as frequent watering. If the frames are large, they should be intersected by cross-bars about a foot square, to support the cloth. These articles are just the thing for bringing forward seeds in season for transplanting.—*Scientific American*



The Household.

Children's Feet.

LIFE long discomfort, disease, and death often come to children through the inattention, or carelessness of the parents. A child should never be allowed to go to sleep with cold feet; the thing to be last attended to, in putting a child to bed, should be to see that the feet are dry and warm; neglect of this has often resulted in a dangerous attack of croup, diphtheria, or fatal sore throat.

Always, on coming from school, on entering the house from a visit or errand in rainy, muddy, or thawing weather, the child's shoes should be removed, and the mother should herself ascertain if the stockings are the least damp, and if so, should require them to be taken off, the feet held before the fire and rubbed with the hand until perfectly dry, and another pair of stockings be put on and another pair of shoes, while the other stockings and shoes should be placed where they can be well dried, so as to be ready for future use at a moment's notice.

There are children not ten years of age suffering with corns from their too close-fitting shoes, by the parent having been tempted to "take" them because a few cents were deducted from the price, while the child's foot is constantly growing. A shoe large enough with thin stockings is too small on the approach of cold weather and thicker hose, but the consideration that they are only half worn is sufficient sometimes to require them to be worn, with the result of a corn, which is to be more or less of a trouble for fifty years, perhaps; and all this to save the price of a pair of half-worn shoes! No child should be fitted with shoes without putting on two pairs of thick woolen stockings, and the shoes should go on moderately easy even over these. Have broad heels, and less than half an inch in thickness.

Tight shoes inevitably arrest the circulation of the blood and nervous influences through the feet, and directly tend to cause cold feet; and health with habitually cold feet is an impossibility.—*Dr. Hall's Journal of Health.*

BLACKING FOR STOVES.—Mix the lustre with the white of an egg; have your stove cold, apply with a brush, rub till perfectly dry, and you will have a lustre nearly equal to that of a new stove.

FROSTED FEET.—Raw cotton and castor oil are said to be an infallible remedy for frozen limbs, and to have effected a cure when amputation was thought to be necessary to save life.

TO DESTROY BED BUGS.—These troublesome creatures can be effectually removed by occasionally applying a small quantity of turpentine, by means of a feather, to all parts of the bedstead usually infested by them.

USEFUL HINTS.—Never enter a sick room in a state of perspiration, as the moment you become cool your pores absorb. Do not approach contagious diseases with an empty stomach; nor sit between the sick and the fire, because the heat attracts the thin vapour.

A NOVEL CURE.—It is said a poultice of onions, tobacco and salt, mixed in equal parts, bound tightly upon the part afflicted, is effectual in curing the bite of a rattlesnake or mad dog. It is worth remembering, as it may do good, and cannot do harm.

DOMESTIC SWEATERS.—It is a singular fact that many ladies, who know how to preserve everything else can't preserve their tempers. Yet it may easily be done on the self-sealing principle. It is only to "keep the mouth of the vessel tightly closed!"

QUICK ANTIDOTES.—If any poison is swallowed, drink instantly half a glass of cool water with a heaping teaspoonful each of common salt and ground mustard stirred into it; this vomits as soon as it reaches the stomach, but for fear some of the poison may still remain, swallow the white of one or two raw eggs, or drink a cup of strong coffee, these two being antidotes for a greater number of poisons than any other article known, with the advantage their being always at hand, if not, a half pint of sweet oil, or "drippings," or melted butter or lard, are good substitutes, especially if they vomit quickly.