

oayed and broken seats, distorted summer-houses, and crumbling and rotten bridges. To avoid these bad results, great pains and expence are sometimes incurred in procuring branches and poles of red cedar or other durable kinds of wood; but a cheaper and more lasting way to prevent this difficulty is to apply two or three heavy coats of crude petroleum to any kind of wood employed, by means of a coarse brush, the oil quickly penetrating the pores and entering the cracks and joints. We have now on our grounds lightly constructed work of soft and perishable wood, which has been exposed to the weather for fifteen years without any sign of decay, having been well impregnated, when new, with petroleum.—*Country Gentleman.*

LEANING TREES.

Often in a fine orchard we find one or more trees leaning over so far as to destroy the beauty of the whole orchard. It is also much more difficult to cultivate around a leaning tree. This may be easily remedied, while the trees are young, by partially digging up and replanting the tree. The roots will usually be found smallest on the side from which the tree leans, and therefore these roots should be loosened from the earth, the tree set in a perpendicular position and carefully fastened by stakes or guys, and the earth replaced around the roots. It would be well to add some rich compost to promote their growth. If, as is very probable, the top of the tree has become one-sided, it should be pruned so as to restore the balance. In this way pear trees may be righted up even when six inches through the stem, but the best way is to look after the young trees and not permit them to depart from the way of uprightness.

FRUIT-TREE CULTURE.

1. Instead of "trimming up" trees, according to the old fashion, to make them long-legged and long-armed, trim them down, so as to make them even, snug, and symmetrical.

2. Instead of manuring heavily in a small circle at the foot of the tree, spread the manure, if needed at all, broadcast over the whole surface, especially where the ends of the roots can get it.

3. Instead of spading a small circle about the stem, cultivate the whole surface broadcast.

4. Prefer a well-pulverized, clean surface, in an orchard with a moderately rich soil, to heavy manuring and a surface covered with a hard crust and weeds and grass.

5. Remember that it is better to set out ten trees with all the necessary care to make them live and flourish, than to set out a hundred trees and have them all die from carelessness.

6. Remember that tobacco is a poison, and will kill insects rapidly, if properly applied to them, and is one of the best drugs for freeing fruit trees rapidly of small vermin—and is better used in this way than to make men repulsive and diseased.

VERBENAS FROM SEED.

Gardening Illustrated gives in substance the following directions for raising verbenas from seed:—Sow the seed about the end of March, in a good, free, rich loam, in pots, covering the seeds with finely-powdered earth not over a fourth of an inch. Place them in a room at about 65 or 70 degrees of warmth, and keep the soil constantly moist. In three weeks the plants will be large enough to set three inches apart in pans, or pots, or shallow boxes. Begin to harden the plants gradually, and then put them into a cold-frame, and plant out in open ground the first of May, in a deep, rich bed, away from shade.

CHANGING THE BEARING YEAR.

The Horticultural Editor of the *Country Gentleman* recommends recourse to artificial means for changing the bearing year of fruit trees. He refers to the effect of a severe and cold storm which once swept through a fine apple orchard, and destroyed the whole crop. But it changed the bearing year for a time, and the next, an odd year, gave large and profitable returns, when fruit generally was scarce. Shearing of the blossoms on young fruit is suggested in order to accomplish the result. But instead of trying to alter the odd year, would it not be better to try and secure moderate crops every year, by thinning the fruit the season of excessive bearing, and feeding the orchard liberally every year? Excess of fruiting and scarcity of plant food no doubt cause the alternation of bountiful and barren years.

CORRECT NAMES.

There is no reason why horticulturists should not use good English in their valuable and practical communications. Many persons divide the name of a well-known peach, *Oldmixon*, in two parts, so as to read "Old Mixon." There is no such name as Mixon, either old or new, and one might as well write the name of an apple, *Old Enburgh*. The former Proceedings of the American Pomological Society had the word *Oldmixon* divided, but of late years the error is corrected; yet even in the last number some of the State reports continue the error. Some of these reports also give the imaginary word "thrip" as the singular of *thrips*. The Greek letter *ps*, used in this word, cannot be cut in two in this way.

TO HAVE FINE RADISHES.

If you want to have delicious radishes, don't pile on a lot of coarse stable manure, but go to your old chip pile—clear off the unrotted chips on top, and then put a waggon load or more of the soft rich soil made by the well-rotted chips on your radish bed. A very little sprinkle of ashes may help it. Plant the radish seed in this, pressing the soil firmly around it, and when the radishes begin to grow, keep the soil well stirred and all weeds killed. If the weather gets very dry, water once lavishly. Remember, you must apply water in very large quantity or you had better not put on any at all.—*Farmer's Advance.*

MULCHING.

A member of the Oneida Community, writing on the importance of mulching fruit trees and plants of every kind, says that he mulched a row of the *Franconia* raspberry, and also one of the *Philadelphia*, side by side. The effect was very marked. While the *Franconias*, which were not mulched, were literally scorched and the leaves crumpled in the sun, the row which received the mulching carried through nearly double the crop of fruit. The material used for mulching was old, half-decayed buckwheat straw, etc.

PORTULACCA.

We often read that the sun is never too hot nor the drouth too intense for this flower, but this hardly agrees with our experience. They will live through terrible drouths, but do much better with a moderate supply of moisture. It is true their bright eyes will open only to the magic touch of the sunshine, but in a partially shaded situation the blossoms are much more enduring. The flowers of the double kinds are more lasting than those of the single. Many think it difficult to preserve the double character of these plants, but we have not found it so.

CREAM.

GROWING QUIET.

Oh, the worry and the bustle
And the tumult of to-day;
Oh, the eager strife of people
And the myriad words they say!
In the rush and competition
There is little time to heed
The soft whispers of the Master
That would meet the people's need,
But sometimes there's a respite
And they hear Him say at length,
"In quietness and confidence
Shall be your strength."

Strangely falls such mystic teaching
On the panting hearts of men;
They but rest them from their struggle
To begin with might again;
Every morning bids them hurry,
And at noon they fill the street
With their crowding, and the clatter
Of a thousand hastening feet:
Will they ever cease the tumult?
Will they understand at length
That "in quietness and confidence
Shall be their strength?"

WANTED—An artist to paint the very picture of health.

On the day of victory no weariness is felt.—*Arabic Proverb.*

DISCOURAGEMENT is not a fruit of humility, but of pride.—*Fenelon.*

It is not death that makes the martyr, but the cause.—*Canon Dale.*

NONE but the guilty can be long and completely miserable.—*Goldsmith.*

A LAWYER is about the only man that ever made anything by opposing a woman's will.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

"THAT'S what beats me," as the boy said when he saw his father take the skato strap down from its accustomed nail.

BASHFULNESS may sometimes exclude pleasure, but seldom opens any avenue to sorrow or remorse.—*Johnson.*

THE firmest friendships have been formed in mutual adversity; as iron is most strongly united by the fiercest flame.—*Colton.*

THE new moon was pointed out one evening to Johnny, who was just learning to talk; being asked if he saw it, he said, "Yes, I see the rind of it."

THE troubles of life are sometimes but imaginary, and could be thrown aside to the mutual benefit of all. Throw them away, and keep your eye on the star of hope.

"WHAT made the mule kick you?" they asked of the gentleman who had been sent flying through the roof of a barn. And he answered: "Do you think I was fool enough to go back and ask him?"

For the best results there needs be the longest waiting. The true harvest is the longest in being reached. The failures come first, the successes last. The unsatisfactory is generally soonest seen.—*Henry Calderwood.*

"How is it, my dear, that you have never kindled a flame in the bosom of any man?" said an old lady to her niece. To which the young lady replied: "The reason, dear aunt, is, as you well know, that I am not a good match."

"Doctor," said a lady patient, "I suffer a great deal with my eyes." The old gentleman adjusted his spectacles, and with a Socratic air replied, "I do not doubt it, my friend; but then you ought not to forget you would suffer a great deal more without them."

A LOT of farmers who had been listening to a railroad land-agent's praise of Arkansas Valley soil, at last asked him, sarcastically, if there was anything that wouldn't grow there. "Yes," said the agent, quickly, "pumpkins won't." "Why not?" "The soil is so rich and the vines grow so fast that they wear out the pumpkins, dragging them over the ground."