

## CHEAP STORAGE FOR APPLES.



ONE of the easiest and most rapid profits that a horticulturist and farmer can take advantage of is in the proper storage of the apple crop. The October and November price of good winter keepers is seldom more than one-third to one-half what the same fruit commands in the latter part of the winter and early spring, so that a moderate amount of shrinkage from rotting, etc., may easily be met in the largely increased profit of late selling. In earlier times quantities of apples were preserved for the spring market, by simply burying them in conical heaps, first placing straw over the heaps, then enough earth to prevent freezing; and even at the present time some of the choicest apples that reach our late spring market are preserved in this well-known manner. Simply a modification of this old and well-tried process is the method that I make the heading of this article. Down a hillside an excavation (see Fig. 396) is made, which may be several feet deep, and 8 or more feet wide at the top and in the bottom, extending its full length, a trough is placed,

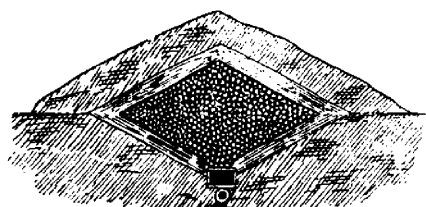


FIG. 396.—APPLE STORAGE: CROSS SECTION.

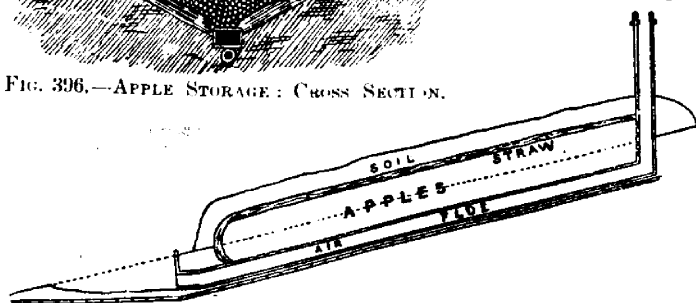


FIG. 397.—APPLE STORAGE: THE SIDE HILL OF IT SEEN LENGTHWISE.

made of a board one foot wide for the bottom, and boards 8 inches wide for the sides, with a little drain immediately below.

This trough, extending up the full length, and in the bottom of the excavation, is covered with slats 1 or 2 inches wide, nailed across not over 1 inch apart. The sloping sides are then covered with rye straw, and apples by the wagon load are placed therein and covered with straw and earth from above to prevent frost from reaching them, as is done in the old way of burying fruits.

The trough below gives a circulation of cold air through all the apples stored above it, and ends in a draught chimney at the upper end. In the very coldest weather the mouth at the lower end of the excavation may be closed, though while the thermometer remains  $12^{\circ}$  or  $15^{\circ}$  above zero it has proved an advantage to let the cold air circulate through. But in warm weather it is an