

THE PROFITS OF FRUIT CULTURE.

APPLES.

THE first fruit, both in importance and general culture, is the Apple. Its period, unlike that of other fruit, extends nearly or quite through the year. By planting judicious selections of Summer, Autumn and Winter sorts, a constant succession can easily be obtained of this indispensable fruit for family use.

There is no farm crop which, on the average, will produce one-fourth as much income per acre as will a good apple orchard. As it takes from six to eight years for an orchard to come into bearing, some people hesitate to plant, regarding the time and expense as in a great measure lost. In reply to this, we would quote the remarks made by O. C. Chapin, of East Bloomfield, N. Y., to J. J. Thomas. He said that he considered the yearly growth of each apple tree planted in his immense orchard of over one hundred and fifty acres, to be worth fully one dollar before they commenced bearing. He has had experience of nearly half a century, and he says that he considers this a low estimate. At forty trees per acre, this would make a yearly increase of value of forty dollars per acre, which no doubt is quite within the mark.

An acre of good orchard is worth, in nearly all parts of the country, from \$200 to \$300 dollars, and is the best kind of investment at those prices; one or two years crops frequently paying the whole amount. The price paid for the fruit is steadily on the increase, and there is no indication that it will ever be as low in the future as in the past.

If apples are planted at the rate of forty trees per acre, rows of plum trees can be planted between the apples, which protect them from the winds, and thus are a great benefit to them. After eight or ten years of productiveness, as the space is needed for apples, the plum trees may be removed, leaving the orchard better for the protection, and at the same time having yielded the grower a large return for his trouble.