

miserable little bunches of fruit, there is but little doubt. And that the little four-months' old plant from the single eye will eventually make the finest and healthiest vine, and bear the best bunches of fruit, is, I think, equally certain; but the kind of plants to choose must depend very much upon the season of planting, and perhaps, on the whole, the plants most likely to general satisfaction, are those that have been started from single eyes in the spring, and then transplanted into the open nursery for one summer. These plants will now be in good condition for moving, either in the fall or following spring. If planted in the fall, October is the best time, and if persons who are transplanting in the fall will take the pains to mulch the border with stable manure, and towards the last of November cover the vines entirely over, fall planting for such vines is preferable; but if the vines are not thus cared for they had better be left in the hands of the nurserymen until spring. The months of April and May are best for spring planting of vines whose buds are not started; but whatever season is chosen let the ground be mulched at the time, to keep out the frost of early winter and the drought of summer. If the vines are planted under a wall or fence, a foot from the wall and from four to six feet from each other is a good distance. On the subject of pruning, a volume might be written; but the object aimed at in pruning is to get but few canes, and these to be strong new wood; therefore, encourage only one or two shoots the first year, and cut these down to within two or three buds of the ground in the fall. Allow no cane that is smaller than the little finger to bear fruit, and allow no fruit-bearing branch of the current year to bear more than one bunch of fruit the second or third year after planting, and not more than two or three bunches in any after year. Pinch off the fruit bearing branch at three or four leaves beyond the last bunch of fruit, and pinch off the summer shoots with the finger and thumb occasionally through the summer.

These few hints, it is hoped, will be of service to the amateur, and they are not intended to instruct any one else.

ON THE CULTURE AND PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES.

BY MR. GEO. LAING, OF HAMILTON.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.—In compliance with your request, and in fulfilment of my promise, I now continue my former paper on Fruit Culture, and bring before you, as briefly as I can, a few practical hints on pruning and training fruit trees. Believing the dwarf system to be the most productive and best, my remarks will more especially refer to that mode. The old adage "Every man his own gardener," is verily fulfilled in the pruning and training of trees; it is an operation on which

practical men have differed much, and do still, as to the time and manner, but all agree on its necessity and importance. It cannot be learned by rote, but only by a strict observance of trees, their natures and habits of growth, &c. Fruit trees must in some measure be treated as they are naturally disposed to grow and produce their fruits. Some produce it on the first year's shoot, such as the vine; others oftenest on the former year's wood, as the peach and nectarine; apples, pears, plums, cherries, &c., upon spurs produced from wood of three, four, or five to fifteen and twenty years old. When fruit trees are well managed, provision is always made to have a regular supply of fruit-bearing wood, but taking care to have nothing superfluous to exhaust the strength and cause unfruitfulness and premature decay. The main object of pruning is to keep the trees in a strong and healthy state of productiveness, also rendering them more pleasing to the eye, and causing them to produce larger and finer fruits. When a tree is planted in a good soil and other favourable circumstances, it will produce luxuriant growths and push out vigorously in all directions, not more than the roots will feed, but many more than can have their foliage duly exposed to the light. One of the most important points in pruning is to regulate the trees, so that the foliage may have plenty of light and air. As the growth of all plants and trees depends upon the amount of foliage or leaves that is duly exposed to the light, it is evident that any reduction of the branches or shoots that bear the leaves must tend to diminish the increase in bulk of the tree, so that the effect produced by the removal of certain parts, is to give a greater share of sap and light to the parts left. The greater flow of sap and the more abundance of light that the tree will then receive will cause the shoots to be much stronger and better, the buds in the axils of the leaves to be full and plump, and more disposed to produce stronger spurs or fruit buds as the case may be.

Having thus so far noticed the tops of the trees, I will now turn attention to the roots, and endeavour to point out the way and means by which the trees may be kept in a regular bearing state. Many of our fruit trees, when favourably situated, are sometimes more apt to run to wood than to produce fruit. In such cases root pruning should be had recourse to, and likewise when trees are to be continued in a dwarf stature, or of fancy forms, for the garden, sides of walks or such like places. These kinds of trees are particularly well adapted for those who may have only a small piece of ground. If the trees have been worked, that is, grafted or budded, on proper stocks, and rightly attended to in top pinching and pruning, they will be very easily managed, either in the garden or orchard. In orchards under dwarf culture the trees are generally grown to a larger size than in the garden, and root pruning may not be so often required; but by many it is regularly practised and found