Horticulture.

Old Apple Trees.

Mr Batchom, of Cleveland, Ohio, a sexagenarian, who is accounted an authority on fruit, writes a very sensible and practical letter on the above subject to the Country Gentleman Having bestowed considerable attention on the deterioration of orchards in the older settled regions of his own and other states, he is convinced that a large number of trees have outlived their period of usefulness. On this point he says :- It seems to be the common belief that there is no limit to the natural age of apple trees. But this is certainly a mistake. We all know that the peach tree usually fails to be profitable at 12 or 15 years of age, and the cherry and plum average only 20 to 40 years ; the pear in favorable circumstances, 40 to 50 years -in rare cases a much longer time So, also, the apple tree has its natural limit, and although, like man's life, the duration of the period of health and vigor varies greatly, according to constitution, nature, climate, etc., its approaching termination is clearly indicated by signs of debility and disease. On very deep and favorable soils, and where the trees are not damaged by severity of climate. apple orchards are occasionally found bearing fair crops of fruit at 80 to 100 years of age, but these are nearly as rare as for their owners to live so long Very few farms have soil of the lest kind for an orchard, and everywhere our climate is either too warm, or at times too cold, for the best health of the trees. Injury by severe cold, blackening all the wood, except as new growth is formed, I am convinced, is a very common cause of the premature failure of orchards ; but starvation, in consequence of exhaustion of the soil, is still more common, and this is a more difficult matter to remedy than most people suppose, especially when trees have attained full bearing size.

Speaking of the effects upon trees of periods of heat and drouth, the writer says that if the parching time comes before summer growth has taken place, it destroys all the feeding rootlets that extend themselves in spring into the surface soil, thereby vastly injuring the tree; and he deprecates mere top-dressing and shallow ploughing as a remody against the evil. "I would manure heavily," he says, "and plough doeply in the fall, at the risk of breaking some roots."

"Trees of from forty to seventy years of ago," he continues, "are capable of bearing only every alternate year, and then their fruit is deficient in size, and of second class quality. Old orchards, too, are much more infested with the codling moth and other insects of every description." The remedy he offers is to cut down all over-aged trees, leaving only a few for family use, until such time as young orchards can be planted and commence to bear. Those at first retained may then be got rid of in the same way, and the ultimatum will be a thrifty young orchard, bearing uniform, annual crops of good fruit. Of course, he adds, care should be taken not to sot the new trees on the ground formerly occupied by the old ones, and if they can be planted at a considerable distance from the old ground, so much the better.

What I Know about Parsnips.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER :-- I will now endeavor to show how farmers can grow the parsmp for profit. I have seen no writer as yet that (directly) gives instructions about growing the parsnip further than this "cultivate the same as for carrots." Now, farmers at the present raise but few carrots and no parsnips, and so their experience amounts to but little more than nil.

The parsnip is one of four vegetables belonging to the umbelliferous class that figure so prominently in all market gardens, namely, the parsnip, parsley, celery and the carrot, and as a rule neither has enemies to prey on it. I think the scle cause of the farmers ignoring this valuable root is for want of knowing how to grow it, or how much it is worth, or else that it is a garden, and not a field crop. Perhaps the most economical distance for rows is twenty inches, and the plants 24 inches apart in the row, which as may be seen in any old country orchard house, where will produce in round numbers fifty thousand roots to the they are invariably grown in that mainer, and with great acre, and, allowing one pound per root, the yield will be 25 tons. But, should this appear too glowing, strike off or quality of the fruit, nor its quantity ; far more mischief one-third, and say 15 tons per acre, when this latter weight is done by rampant growth than by any amount of dwarfing.

will more than equal 30 tons of turnips. I must promise that every farmer has a portion of his land that is naturally or mechanically drained, otherwise no great results will follow.

There is no land more suitable for this crop to follow than that which has borne a crop of early potatoes. When the stalks are all cleaned off, harrow it well different ways. and let it lie a few days, after which plough not less than horse. This should be done not later than the first week in October. It should lie in this condition for a week when it should be again well harrowed. The composiof well rotted manure per acre, spread broadcast and ridged up in the manner below illustrated.

I know of no one practising this method but myself. Mark off a distance, say 30 feet at A. A. parallel to C. C. Begin the first ridge at A. 1. At the other end haw to the left and come down to the line D.D., leaving as a centre B.B., then haw to the left, ploughing another ridge to the right of the first, which makes the second ridge at 3. 3., and so continue till the first panels E.E. and C.C. are completed. The last time, when going up 5, gee, by turning to the right, and back at F.F., which must be parallel to E.E., and so continue till a whole field, or any part of it is done. In this method of ridging there are two things to observe : First, your left hand horse becomes the furrow horse, when, by adjusting the bridle of the plough, a ridge can be made of any width from 18 to 30 inches. These ridges, when so made, are just half done. The second

C

6



thing to note is, when you proceed to split or finish them, you must begin where you end the first time, and end where you begin, following the same direction as at the first, and no short or odd bouts can possibly occur. But, before this second operation of ridge-splitting is done, there is one thing of paramount importance to all others to be attended to in root-growing, namely, the subsoiling between the ridges. The heaviest subsoil ploughs are not needed for this business, as depth is the principal thing required. The way to perform this work is to drive two horses tandem, the operator to drive with one hand and hold one handle of the plough with the other, as when the work is done, not a footstep (man or horse) should be impressed on the disturbed subsoil; and this is done by the man walking in the next furrow to be done. PUBLICOLAS

Continued next month.

Growing Peaches in Cold Climates. Concluded.

Peach trees do wonderfully well in tubs, pots, and vases, success. The dwarfing of the tree does not affect the size

Of course by this system artificial watering of the trees is rendered necessary. Where the necessary irrigation can be obtained from natural sources, or from water works, no difficulty on this head can arise; where it cannot, the trees must be regularly watered as they are in the o.chard louses.

Trees for this purpose ought to be grafted or budded on the best and most dwarfing growth of stocks which can be 10 inches deep, if it is necessary to hitch up the third had. The permanency of the tree is thus secured. American peach trees seldom produce more than five full crops, and are then replaced by younger plantations. English wall fruit peach trees last in full bearing as long as any heap should now be in a condition to afford 12 good loads other fruit tree. The writer has pruned and attended to trees fully thirty years old, but which still continued in full and perfect bearing, and seemed to produce quite as good crops as younger trees.

The same treatment may be extended to the more tender kinds of grapes, which winter-kill, and which require assistance in the fall and summer, when the black board would supply the necessary amount of heat. Glass fronts could be added by loose frames and thus all the best kinds of grapes would be secured to perfection.

To guard against mice a tray of poisoned grain beneath each tree, when laid down, should be used.

Another incalculable advantage would be secured by this system: the roots of the trees being so 'absolutely under control, the application of the "special manuro" the peach requires, would be easy. Peaches, like all other fruit trees, are subject to years of barrenness, or a comparative failure of crop, and there is no doubt that this might be remedied or at all events greatly relieved, by the application of "special manure." What that manuro is, can only be ascertained by burning the peach stones and analyzing the ashes. These at once tell the tale. It has long been proved that the mineral elements of plants are derived or manufactured by the spongioles of the roots from the soil alone, while the soluble portion of the fruits, roots, and seeds, are derived from the atmosphere.

The doctrine of special manures is now so well understood in Britain, and on the continent of Europe, that no farmer raises a special crop without purchasing the special manure to apply to it. He uses all the ordinary manure he can obtain, but in addition applies the special manure, and from this fact special manuro manufacture has become a very largo business in all countries where the manures are used.

It may be safely said, that when once this system is naugurated with success, no gentleman's garden will be without its sapply of peaches, nectarines, and other delicate winter killing fruit which in other respects will withstand the northern climate. Where water-works are to be found, or irrigation easily had, the boxes will be planted in long rows about 14 or 15 feet apart and will be commanded by a single pipe stretching from end to end with a small aperture opposite cach tree, and a stop cock at the end, the entire trouble of watering the trees would then be the more turning off and on of the water, for of course the boxes may touch one another in the rows.

The writer believes that the better plan of growing the wall fruit class, would be, merely nailing the principal branches to the boards as they extend, and allowing the trees to take a natural growth after that. This would require loss pruning and attention, and the pressure of the weight of the trees on the branches, when put down for the winter, would always keep the bearing branches sufficiently near to the boards to insure the bencht of the rediated heat from the blackened surface.

So far this plan has been submitted to two of the most experienced yeach-growing establishments in the northern portion of America (which is the doubtful ground of the peach, and the only part treated on,) and has met with their unqualified approval. One of these establishments is in Canada, and the other in the Northern States. As their opinion was asked, without the idea of publication, the names are not mentioned, but they can be obtained at any time by application to the Office of the CANADA FARMER. Both these establishments propare peach trees for this especial purpose.

The Canadian firm says . "I have carefully read the cnclosed paper, and I know that the gentlemen in the County of Prince Edward have grown peaches in tubs in the open air with success, merely placing the tubs with the trees therein during winter, under cover of an outhouse or shed." The American firm (and they are the largest nurserymen