

AN ITEM IN REGARD TO PRUNING.

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER :

SIR,—It is supposed that Editors know everything in relation to the subjects treated in their journals, but they blunder sometimes, like ordinary mortals. Your paragraph on page 85, entitled "Error as to pruning" shows plainly that the *American Agriculturist* gave wrong advice about pruning. Indeed nothing could be more absurd than the course recommended by that journal. A. A. HILL is correct in his theory, but makes one important omission. The stump of every limb taken off with a saw (however sharp and fine) should have the ring of wood and bark neatly and carefully pared with a sharp knife to promote a speedy growth.

You may make a note of this, a hint will do no harm.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM SISSON.

Port Hope, March 23, 1869.

TOADS, ETC., IN GARDENS.

In a recent lecture on Insect Enemies, before the Vineland Agricultural and Horticultural Society, N. J., by Mr. Treat, he thus alludes to the usefulness of toads:—

Carry all the toads you may find to your gardens. They will devour immense numbers of bugs. A toad will swallow the largest specimen of the tomato worm, though sometimes he will have a hard time of it. Snakes, hens, wasps, spiders, are all devourers of your enemies. A common duck will go up and down rows of tomato and potato vines, and pick off the large worms usually found on such vines, as fast as it can see them; and they will see a half dozen when a man would not see one. Young turkeys will do the same service, though they are not so easily controlled and guided. All fallen fruit is to be picked up twice a day—at any rate once—boiled, and then given to your cattle to be devoured. By doing this it will pay ten times over, and the result of it will be that next year you will not have insects.

THE BEST MULCH FOR GRAPE VINES.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that he finds leached ashes and cut grass the best mulch for the grape vine. The ashes gather moisture and repel heat. Grape vines that were mulched at the commencement of the drought last summer, stood the heat well. When the grass rots, the roots derive nutriment from it. The grass is put on first, and then covered with ashes. This mulch is both protective and enriching, and the nutriment is of a kind that is wanted—vegetable and carbonaceous.

GARDEN GLEANINGS.

Pear-blight still puzzles the horticulturists. The best remedy known is to plant two trees for every one that dies.

There are 148,000 shade trees in Paris—principally the elm, Plane, Horse-chestnut, Maple, Linden, Acacia, and the Ailanthus.

An extensive fruit grower, who within a few years has set out thirty thousand trees, says that as to peaches, pears, and plums, he would prefer them at one year old, and the apple at two years. Much depends on after cultivation.

On a market garden farm of a little less than 90 acres, in Monmouth County, N.J., there was realized last year a profit of nearly \$80 per acre, \$6789.67 in all. There was paid for labour \$1640.50, and for manure \$2294.00.

The American Basket Company, New Britain, Conn., have prepared a useful and interesting circular containing directions on marketing small fruits, which the *Country Gentleman* commends to the attention of those engaged in that business.

The *Gardener's Magazine* says that several fine plants of the prickly pear covered with living Cochineal Insects, have arrived at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regents Park, London, from Maderia. Both plants and insects are in a more healthy state than specimens usually imported.

The *Gardener's Monthly* says that immense numbers of insects might be destroyed in a garden or orchard by using bottles of sweet liquid systematically. This is quite common in England, where they do not let every fruit enemy run riot, and then sit down and cry about having no crops.

At a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Fruit Growers' Society, Mr. Thomas Meehan Editor of the *Gardener's Monthly* said that "in order to have good success in growing grapes, a soil could scarcely be too warm, too dry, too shallow or too rich." His opinion was endorsed by nearly all the fruit growers present.

In the *London Journal of Horticulture*, Mr. Rivers states that an orchard-house in the garden of Mr. E. W. Harlock, of Ely, Cambridgeshire, produced this season nearly 40 bushels of peaches, nectarines, and apricots, besides a large quantity of pears and plums. The house is 100 feet long, and 40 feet wide.

An Iowa correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer*, who has made a trial of the Barberry for a hedge, says it is easy to keep in good shape, and is always symmetrical and neat. To form a barrier against cattle, he stretches two or three wires in it. Another correspondent finds the seed of ready growth, even without washing off the pulp, and that eight or ten years are required to form a good hedge. He has one next the public road, and to prevent cows from hooking it, which they are apt to do after the leaves drop, he also sets a few posts and draws wires, remarking that cattle do not like the ring of iron.