

ANTIQUITY OF FRUIT.

fruit trees. On arrival in England, the label on a plum tree having been lost, the gardener being ignorant of its name, called it from its color "green" and its employer's name Gage—thus "green-gage."

But what our ancestors boasted of and what they were proudest of, were cherries. We even read that cherries were planted in England one hundred years before Christ, whilst in 1540 an orchard of 32 trees produced 1,000 quarts which were sold strung along sticks and peddled from house to house. The Court of James I. amused themselves, having matches who could eat the most cherries, one would imagine a doctor would be needed after one of the Court ladies managing to gorge 20 lbs., beating her opponent by $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., with a serious illness as the result. Grapes also were planted and tended with care the clergy being most clever in managing vineyards. The Bishop of Hereford in 1289 excelled in wine-making, making from his vineyard 7 pipes—882 gallons of white wine and 1 pipe of serjuice. Adulteration was a

severe crime; Henry VI having ordered in 1427, 16,200 gallons of wine which was adulterated to be poured into the street and the culprit to suffer the loss of his hands. A severe frost damaged the fruit in 1257, the English having a great scare thinking there would be none. One good deed of Henry III. before his death, was to order 2,000 chestnuts to be planted in his park. A yearly item of fruit for the table of Edward I. being £21 14s. 1½d—\$108.53. In his reign we first read of the orange being introduced, seven being brought from Spain in 1290. But its use being very different from ours now, for Cardinal Wolsey having removed the flesh inside substituted a sponge soaked in aromatic vinegar as a precaution against pestilential airs. Thus we, who devote our whole time to fruit culture, only follow in the footsteps of those who have pursued the same lines, with the exception only—having much more improved varieties and improved methods

NIGEL KEEP.

Winona.

JAPAN PLUM—SPRAYING WITH LYE, ETC.

I HAVE tried a number of Japan plums and Russian apricots; some of each winter-killed, while others have made a fine growth, but although four years planted have not blossomed yet. There are some blossom buds on them now and possibly there may be some result from them next season. For bark louse I have sprayed my trees with kerosene emulsion, with not very satisfactory results although tried persistently for several seasons, choosing the time when the young lice are moving on the young branches. My brother has used instead

lye from hard wood ashes diluted to 1 part lye and 2 parts water—with most satisfactory results. Some of his trees (15 years old) were so badly infested that they were almost dead and altogether unfruitful, but under the lye spraying treatment are quite revived and have nice clean bark. I am so convinced of the superiority of lye as a spray that I will use it instead of kerosene emulsion in future.

D. S. McDONALD,

Glendyer Mills, Mabou, C. B., Nova Scotia.