

TREATMENT OF OLD TREES.

Old trees, writes Dr. Halstead, are not always profitable trees. The soil of the orchard may be rich, deep and mellow, and the trees remain unproductive. It is difficult to make a whistle out of pig's tail. Some fruit trees are not fruit-bearing, and have little use as foliage plants. A farmer cannot afford to grow wood in the orchard, the wood lot is the only proper place for such a crop. All unproductive trees either need to be cut down and cast into the wood pile or engrafted with new blood and new life. Much may be done in an old, run-down orchard, by a thorough trimming out of the dead branches and scraping the bark free from all insect pests. But a tree that is thoroughly bad, which is known by the poor quality of fruit (or its entire absence) needs to have its nature changed by grafting. This work is a simple one, which any farmer may do. He needs to know that grafting is the planting of a piece of one plant in a part of another. The cion is a cutting set in a tree instead of in the soil. The cions should be cut from healthy trees of the best varieties. Cut only twigs of last year's growth, a foot or so long, and tie them up in bundles with labels. These twigs should be obtained before any signs of spring life is seen in the trees, and the grafting should begin when the buds are swelling. The operation is a simple one. The writer grafted successfully when seven years old, and any person can do as well. It is more of an art than anything else, and although not easy to describe it can be easily understood by watching an expert graft a few stocks, and a little practice will soon give the knack.

A Use for the Pine Cone.

For once the pine cone is to figure largely in a presidential campaign. The pine cone is to be the symbol of the Blaine boom, because the "magnetic" candidate hails from the pine tree state. It was said by the reporters in the convention that the Hawley delegates from Connecticut, when they saw that Blaine was nominated on the fourth ballot, each went down into his gripeack and picked out a pine cone that had been cut and dried and brought along for use in a possible contingency. These symbols of the pine tree state they held aloft in full view of the convention with electrical effect on all who beheld them. It was a graceful and appropriate Connecticut tribute to the victor and his state; but pine men need not infer that because they have a sort of resinous connection with the Republican candidate for president that they are in duty bound to vote him.—*Northwestern Lumberman.*

Wood Ashes as a Manure.

Ashes improve all soils that are deficient in the principles which they contain, and are especially adapted to root crops, grains and grasses. When applied in connection with bone dust, they produce, says a contemporary, excellent results on turnips, potatoes—all the roots, in fact clover, peas, beans and the grasses. Ashes and gypsum mixed form an admirable dressing. Ashes are applied in variety of ways. They may be drilled in the soil, sown broadcast, or mixed with the muck heap. Repeating the dressing of ashes without a sufficient amount of vegetable or yard manure will in time prove detrimental, but there is not much danger of this mistake. Coal ashes are decidedly inferior to those made from wood, and depend largely on their mechanical influence for value. They are better adapted to heavy than to light soils.

Effects of a Theory on Trade.

When, a few years ago, the rapid extinction of the American forests was persistently insisted on, till people began to believe in it, a great stimulus was given to the timber trade here, as shown by the larger importation of 1876 and 1877, but when it became apparent that the more buyers were willing to extend their orders the more sellers arose to compete for them, they lost faith in the doctrine, and the trade soon shrank even within the orbit of its customary dimensions, and 1879 was as much below as 1877 was above an average year of importation. Since then the trade has gone on more evenly; but this year the cheapness of freight may possibly, to some extent, cause market cargoes to disturb its equilibrium.—*Timber Trades Journal.*

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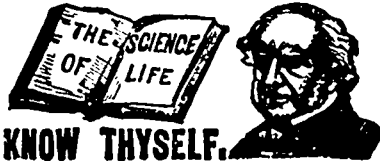
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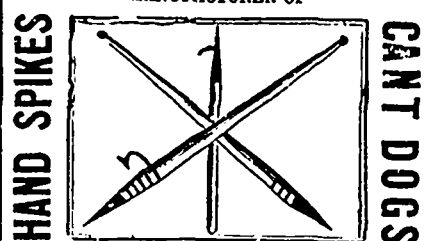
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