

FORMS OF TREES.

It should be borne in mind that fruit trees are not planted for ornament, and all beauty in the tree must be secondary to an abundance of good fruit. An attempt to shape all the trees of an orchard alike must necessarily fail. The "inverted umbrella" and "open urn shape" recommended for apple trees cannot be had in practice. It is a mistaken notion to suppose that fruit on such trees gets more light than those conical in shape. More surface is exposed to sunlight on a conical tree than on a flat-topped or hollow-topped specimen. Perhaps the majority of varieties cannot be made to assume obconical or inverted umbrella form, or at least they do not retain it when old. Strive to make the trees in an orchard as nearly symmetrical in shape as possible, but do not undertake to make a tree assume a form contrary to its habit of growth. The person who prunes all trees after one model must make a botch of his orchard. Having decided upon the height at which the top is to be started—and even this may vary in different varieties—the important points are: 1. Secure an opening at the base of the head large enough to admit comfortably a man and basket. 2. Keep the top moderately and evenly thinned of small limbs. 3. Do not run the limbs up long and slender, with no side branches. 4. If in a windy region prune heaviest on the side opposite the prevailing winds. In most cases I have seen ill results follow the cutting out of the centre trees. More light and air are usually needed on the lower branches than on the interior ones. It is not necessary to read a treatise on pruning before one can prune an orchard properly. The most successful apple growers I have known are those who started the top moderately high, let the tree take its natural form—unless in exceptional cases of an ill-formed tree—and who thinned out the small branches evenly each year. This simplifies the process and renders it more useful—*American Cultivator*.

Pruning is a necessary evil, therefore it should never be done when not needed, nor neglected when needed.

Good luck—industry, care, promptness.
Bad luck—tardiness, carelessness, neglect.

BILL NYE ON BUMPS.

Much harm has been done by a long-haired phrenologist in the West, who has, during his life, felt over a hundred thousand heads. A comparison of a large number of charts given in these cases show that, so far, no head examined would indicate anything less than a member of the lower House of Congress. Artists, orators, prima donnas, and statesmen are plenty, but there are no charts showing the natural born farmer, carpenter, or chambermaid. This is the reason butter is so high west of the Missouri river to-day, while genius actually runs riot.

What this day and age of the world needs is a phrenologist who will paw around among the intelligent domes of free-born American citizens, and search out a few men who can milk a cow in a cool and unimpassioned tone of voice. When a long-haired crank asks you a dollar to tell you that you are a young Demosthenes, stand up and look yourself over at a distance before you swallow it all.

There is no use talking, we have got to procure provisions in some manner, and in order to do so, the natural born bone and sinew of the country must go at it and promote the growth of such things, or else we artists, poets and statesmen will have to take off our standing collars and do it ourselves. The time will surely come when America will demand less statemanship and more flour; when less statistics and a purer, nobler and more progressive style of beefsteak will demand our attention.

PLANT CURRANTS.

Currants are not only healthful and refreshing in midsummer, but are always a profitable crop if properly cared for. John H. Hale, in the *Connecticut Farmer*, truly says there is money in this crop if it can be disposed of at six cents per quart, and the price is rarely less than ten cents. Every farmer should go through the neglected rows of old bushes next spring, cut out at least one-half of the old wood, shorten in the remainder, plough in a good coat of manure, dust with powdered hellebore when the worms appear, and the increased size and yield of bunch and berry will make him think he has one of the new varieties which show so gorgeously in the colored pictures of the nurserymen's catalogues.