

up rapidly, chokes all the weeds, and abstracts but little nitrogen from the soil, as it draws its principal nutriment from the air. It decomposes very quickly in a good soil, doubtless owing to the spongy nature of the leaves. This decomposition is immediate and the large amount of gas liberated asphyxiates the larvae of the various insects in the ground. Mr. Lergarde suggests this as a possible remedy for phyloxera, by sowing among the vines and digging in about the roots."

FORK VERSUS SPADE.

We notice that the spade in garden work is still greatly used; and the knowledge that the spade has been in a great measure superseded by the fork has not travelled near as much as it ought to have done. We see many a one "digging garden," and preparing for spring, spade in hand, utterly unconscious that with a modern digging fork a man can do as much work in a day, and with far less fatigue, what with an old-fashioned spade it would take him two days to do. In the use of the fork there is no digging to do. The tine runs into the earth by the downward descent of the fork in the operator's hand alone; and in throwing over and in levelling, a single blow of the tines is enough to pulverize and make a level surface. Some say their land is too light—that the earth passes through and they cannot take up a forkful; but in this case work it when it is wet. Even sandy ground can be dug with a fork, if the proper time is chosen for it. Of course the spade can never be abandoned. There will always be some ground that is very weedy, or full of roots, where a sharp edge like that of a spade will be necessary to sever; and in digging up trees and garden vegetables nothing can replace the spade in handiness; but there are a number of instances in garden work where a digging-fork can come into very great labour-saving.

WASH FOR FRUIT TREES.

The object in applying a wash to trees is not so much to improve the rough and scaly outer bark, as to destroy the parasitic plants and insects which adhere to the surface of the bark, and sap the vitality of the tree by a constant drain upon the circulating current. One form of wash is made by adding one pound of whale oil soap to three gallons of warm water, stirring well, and applying with a stiff broom or brush. The trunk should be rubbed thoroughly and hard to remove as much as possible of loose bark, that the liquid may reach every part of the surface. Another good wash is a weak lye from wood ashes. A third wash is made by adding two quarts of soft water to one gallon of common soft soap. Place these in a vessel over the fire, and when warm the soap and water are readily combined by stirring, and should be applied in the same manner as the whale oil application. The best results are obtained by washing the tree about three times during the season, applying the first in April or May, the second in July, and the last in September. The insects as well as moss will be effectually removed, leaving the bark in a fine, healthy condition.

FRUIT FROM PRIMITIVE FORMS.

The Acme Tomato was not produced from the seeds of the largest and finest specimen, but from the small, hardy Plum Tomato, fertilized by the best-known variety on the score of size and perfection of fruit. So the Rogers' grapes came from the seeds of the wild Sage Grape fertilized by the best foreign sorts. The Hovey Seedling strawberry was from the seed of the native species fertilized by the South American. The

Wealthy apple was from a Astrachanic-crab seed fertilized most likely by the Famouse. Hardy new varieties are produced by planting primitive forms, fertilized by sorts with the best in fruit. The grape, also, furnishes an excellent illustration. Dr. Sturtevant says: "It cannot have failed to be observed how a diminution in the size of the seed accompanies an improvement in quality in our native grapes."

MANURES FOR VEGETABLES.

All vegetables that are grown for their leaves or stems require an abundance of nitrogenous manures, and it is useless to attempt vegetable gardening without it. To this class belong cabbage, lettuce, spinach, etc. The other class which is grown principally for its seeds or pods, as beans, peas, etc., does not require much manure of this character; in fact, the plants are injured by it. It causes too great a growth of stem and leaf, and the earliness—a great aim in vegetable growing—is injuriously affected. Mineral manures, as wood ashes, bonedust, etc., are much better for them. For vegetables requiring rich stable manure it is best that they have it well rotted and decayed. Nothing has yet been found so well fitted for the purpose as old hot-bed dung, though to the smell no trace of "ammonia" remains in it. So says *The Gardener's Monthly*, and its hints are timely.

LARGE OR SMALL TREES.

The inexperienced usually prefer large trees. This is a great mistake. Overgrown nursery trees are frequently not worth the cost of transportation, for four out of five will have the roots badly damaged in taking up. An apple-tree one inch in diameter should be taken in preference to one of a larger growth. Our most experienced planters now prefer trees of one and two years' growth. The roots are less injured in transplanting, and they can trim and shape the tree to suit themselves. Besides, experience has proved that they come into full bearing quite as soon as the older ones.

GRUB WORM PREVENTION.

A writer in the *Rural New Yorker* relates the following: One of my neighbours covered his strawberries with very coarse horse manure. In spring he raked it into the paths, where it was trodden quite hard. On examination, after a while, it was found to contain myriads of very small grub worms, which were carefully removed with the manure and destroyed, thereby nearly clearing the grounds, which had been infested badly. Similar results have been obtained in other trials.

CURRENT cuttings, and those of the gooseberry plant, should be eight or nine inches in length. Plant in a shady, moist place, tramping the dirt firmly about the lower ends, leaving the upper end an inch above ground.

WHEN suitable soil is used for potting, plants only require to be kept clean, and to be sufficiently yet carefully watered with pure water, to keep them in health, until the pots become crowded with roots. In this state they speedily extract all the nutriment from the soil, and either liquid manure or top dressings become necessary.

STABLE-KEEPERS are among the healthiest of men, and considered especially free from respiratory affections, although much exposed to cold and damp. Some attribute this to the ammonia evolved from the manure piles, and it is said in corroboration that little breast amulets of carbonate of ammonia, or spraying of the throat with dilute liquid ammonia gives sure relief in bronchial attacks.

CREAM.

A BROILING sun—The Cook's.

WHAT Wiggins deserves—Blows.

DIED in the wool—A defunct sheep.

WOMAN's dough-main—The kitchen.

ALWAYS out of countenance—The nose.

WHEN the clock strikes there is no legal redress.

SPORTSMEN should never make game of chickens.

THE early-rising husband catches the kindlings.

IF you don't want to lose your gun, never let it go off.

WHEN a dog is like an eagle—When he is out on a scent.

IN-COMPETENCY—Fortunes derived from hotel-keeping.

IT takes the liveliest kind of a lonfer to make a dead beat.

IDENTICAL—Sailors and theatre-goers—They MEN make horse-shoes, but women excel in making hen shoes.

IT is not universally that if you keep a dog the dog will keep the "wolf from the door."

MRS. PARTINGTON, dear old lady says that there are very few people now-a-days who suffer from "suggestion of the brain."

WHEN Ouida asked Charles Reade for a name for her dog he suggested "Tonio," saying: "It is sure to be a mixture of bark, steel and whine."

A TRAVELLING printer, for want of employment at his trade, went to work on a farm. He came one day to ask his employer if a hen should be set solid.

IT sometimes takes a four-horse team to drag a man into virtue, but he will slip into vice as easily as though the whole pathway of life were strewn with bits of orange peel.

"INTELLIGENT!" said the butcher, "that dog o' mine was the most intelligent creatur' that ever travelled on four feet. Why, when he committed suicide he did it by jumping into the sausage machine, so as to save me all the work he could."

AN old coloured preacher in Atlanta, Georgia, was lecturing a youth of his fold about the sin of dancing, when the latter protested that the Bible plainly said:—"There is a time to dance." "Yes, dar am a time to dance," said the dark divine, "and it's when a boy gets a whippin' for going to a ball."

PLANTATION PHILOSOPHY.—It's tryin' ter be interestin' in conversation dat makes a liar outen many a man.—De appetite ob man an' the vanity ob woman is what keeps de world's trade in motion.—It ain't de pussion what bows low dat is really de humblest. De snake is all on de groun', but, Lawd, how pizen he is.

"Gaba," said the governor to an old coloured man, "I understand that you have been ousted from your position of Sunday school superintendent." "Yes, sah, da figgered aroun' till da got me out. It was all a piece ob political work though, an' I doan see why de law ob de lan' doan prevent de Sunday schools an' churches from takin' up political matter." "How did politics get you out?" "Yer see, some time ago, when I was a candidate for justice ob de peace, I gin' a barbecue ter some ob my fren's. De udder day da brung up de sack an' rousted me." "I don't see why the fact that you gave a barbecue to your friends should have caused any trouble." "Neider does mysef, boss, but yer see da said dat I stole de hogs what I barbecued. De proof wan't good, and I think dat da done wrong in aakin' upon sech slim testimony. Da said dat I catch de hogs in a corn fiel'. I know dat wan't true, case it was a wheat fiel' whar I catch 'em."