

imported varieties. Crosses are yet to be made which will combine hardihood with quality. Our hybridists are on the track. Skill and delicate manipulation will yet accomplish their wonders. We are only on the threshold of great discoveries in hybridization. Facts are becoming more and more patent which show the wonderful influence of the stock upon the scion. Stock ought to be selected with the greatest care. That any stock will suffice is an idea that happily is becoming exploded among fruit growers. Were testimony to be desired as to the effect the stock has upon the scion, it is not wanting to those who have noted the disastrous results of the past winter. Take, for example, the cherry. Cherries worked on the mazzard stock have in most cases been killed outright, while those on the mahaleb, standing in close juxta-position, have in many instances escaped. The mazzard cannot be compared to the mahaleb as a stock. Were growers to order trees on the mahaleb stock they would not suffer so severely as they have done from the severity of winter. Mr. Saunders' cherries, on his farm in the neighbourhood of London, have almost all suffered that were on the mazzard; those on the mahaleb, while showing symptoms of having suffered, are comparatively uninjured contrasted with those on the mazzard. What is true of the cherry on mahaleb and mazzard stock is equally true of pear stock. Some varieties of stock are naturally dwarfish of themselves—in their own nature—and some are rampant growers. These differences are to be found in the smallest quantities of pear stock. I have a Lawrence on pear stock, which has the diameter of the stock double that of the scion. The consequence both of the growth of the wood and of the fruit is that it far exceeds its neighbours both in wood-growth and in fertility.

This question of stock must soon assume proportions which have not characterized its importance in the past. Few pears are so tender as the apricot. The smallest and tenderest twigs of my apricots were untouched by the frosts of the past winter, while all over my garden, hardy and tender varieties of the pear alike have been greatly injured, and this, in many instances, owing to the stock. Good stock cannot be got by haphazard—by taking just what comes up from the pomace as sown by our nurserymen. The varieties arising from the seed of the same apple are as different in nature and constitution as the individual plants differ from one another. What we desiderate is that the best selection is made of the best varieties, and only such used as stocks for our future trees. Indeed, we are persuaded that the choice of the plumpest and best seeds would accomplish a good purpose; choice of good seed will, as a rule, secure good stocks.

We have reason, however, to congratulate our members that the severity of the winter is not an unmixed evil. While it has played havoc among our trees and plants, it has not spared some of our worst insect pests. The curculio has come under its ban, and the number of the little Turk have greatly diminished. In spring I began to jar when the buds were fully developed. Beginning with three, we never captured at one time more than seven from any one tree. We venture to think that they were bagged before they had copulated. The early harvesting of the few prevented much trouble with the many. The winter has really loosened this evil. The curculio has not made his usual ravages, and the Owen Saunders may be safe from his ravages for years to come. What is true of the curculio is more than true of the pear slug. Not one has been observed in my garden this season. It is difficult always to give the reason of things, but it seems to us a matter of fact that the winter has had the effect of cutting off this pest.

We ought to be careful in wishing ill to anybody or anything, but we cannot avoid wishing that similar effects had resulted in the case of the codlin moth as have affected the curculio and pear slug. The ravages of the codlin moth are as great this year as I have ever known them. Early in the season there was a fair promise of a good apple crop, but the ravages of the codlin moth have thinned the trees considerably, and the apple crop on the whole can scarcely be said to be up to the medium. One united effort must be made by all fruit growers to gather the fallen fruit. We have considerable faith in rolls of rags, both of cotton and paper, about the trunk of the trees to catch the larvæ, but much can be done by collecting and destroying the fallen fruit. Mr. Springer, Wellington Square, uses with great success, for the diminishing of the codlin moth, strips of coarse saltpetre bags fastened with a spike of the common Canadian thorn tree, and finds it completely successful. He has saved his crop of Northern Spies, and is almost free of the enemy, being aided by the acute sense of hearing, and by the good taste of his porkers. Once a week a visit is paid to the bands, and the numerous occupants are prevented from