



## PRUNING.

CRITICISMS BY THE EDITOR.

**P**ROF. Bailey gives eight reasons for pruning, all of which in our opinion may be included in one object, viz.: To so direct the growth of the tree that the best results in fruit bearing shall be attained.

This work may be done at any time, but the vigor of the tree is best maintained by pruning while the wood is dormant. To keep the tree in condition for giving the best results attention is needed, not only during the season of rest, but also during that of growth, in order that strength may not be wasted in producing a large amount of wood which must afterwards be sacrificed.

**Tree Butchery.**—It is a mistake, very commonly made, to neglect an apple orchard during the first ten or fifteen years of its growth, and all at once to set to work with axe and saw to attempt to prune the trees into shape. Butchering is the only word applicable to such a process. Those trees can never fully recover from the shock received, and the huge wounds will in time be the means of producing decay into the very heart of the tree, diminishing

its vitality and shortening its life. We have at Maplehurst an old orchard which in its early years was treated in this barbarous fashion, and which has ever since served as an object lesson to the writer. The pruning was always done by cutting away the great branches of the trunk until those remaining were far up and almost out of reach. In one case I remember trying in vain with a ladder thirty feet long to gather the finest apples on a Golden Sweet tree, and after reaching and climbing, I had to shake down most of the golden beauties only to be smashed and bruised so that they were rendered wholly unfit for sale. Many of these old trees are hollow trunked, affording fine hiding places for squirrels, but in the end they toppled over with their own weight. Another evil was the great number of sprouts which sprang up about these great cuts, an effort of Dame Nature to make up for the sudden loss of limbs. Especially was this trouble apparent in cases where my grandfather, in his efforts to open out the head of the tree to the rays of the sun, had cut out the whole top. The