

in mind, and pruning directed so as to encourage it. These sweet cherry trees are naturally pyramidal in form, and this habit must of course be encouraged. Farther than this, the only pruning required will be the removal of branches that cross, and those that are dead.

#### THE SOUR CHERRY CLASS

on the other hand, form round bushy heads, and during the first three or four years the pruning should be directed toward securing this form. At time of planting the three or four top branches should be shortened to within four or five buds of their base, and four or five shoots encouraged to form the frame-work of the head. These must again be shortened the next year, and such secondary branches allowed to grow as will fill up the spaces and give symmetry. In three or four years a permanent form will have been secured, and it will only be necessary to remove superfluous growth from year to year.

The late Patrick Barry gave the following directions for

#### PRUNING THE CHERRY AS A PYRAMID.

The leader or stem is cut back to within six, eight or ten buds of the branches. Those having no branches are cut back to within six or eight buds of the stock, and this is the first pruning.

When the shoots have grown a couple of inches in length, such as are intended for permanent branches are chosen, and the others are pinched in the same manner as recommended for pears and apples. Such as acquire more vigor than is consistent with their position, must be checked. It frequently happens that, unless the leader has been cut back close, only three or four shoots will be produced at the extremity, leaving a vacant space below. This can be remedied in most cases by pinching the shoots around the leader when they have grown about an inch. In some cases it may be necessary even to check the leader to force the lower buds into growth. This is a point of considerable importance in conducting a pyramid, and should never be lost sight of.

**PRUNING.**—Probably one of the best tests as to a good knowledge of practical gardening lies in the manner in which the pruning knife is handled, for the deplorable effects of a lack of this knowledge are seen everywhere. The chief success in fruit-culture comes from the knowledge and the practice of judicious pruning. One has but to look at an ordinary vineyard, and the result of some good gardener's growth of grapes under glass, to see the wide difference between ignorance and knowledge. The good grape-grower under glass will use the pruning-knife so judiciously that the plants will be healthy and productive for a hundred years, bearing fruit as freely and as vigorously from near the roots as at the top of the vine. The grower on the garden trellis, or

on the side of a barn or building, finds his vines no good at the end of a few years. The variety he pronounces no good, and he rushes after every new kind to correct the results of his own folly.

One may travel through the length and breadth of the land and not find a case of sound pruning, and, at the same time, notice the weakness and decay in orchards everywhere,—all due to ignorance of pruning. There will be seen many cases where the owners understood this much: that pruning was a necessary part of a good gardening education—but not knowing anything of causes and results, they have rather hastened than arrested the destruction of their trees.—*Mechan's Monthly*.