

which I again witnessed here to-day, that oxen and cows in Italy look as thoroughly groomed, as smooth and shining, as English race-horses. All of these huge field-laborers, the cows and the very bulls, have a placid, half-dreamy look, indicative of the very best nature, and of a temper which no provocation would ruffle. I noticed the Archbishop of Pisa's steers, in particular, with the classical profile of their heads, the slightly-arched frontal bone; the meditative, almost clerical gravity of expression, for which, taking their prodigious bulk into account, it was impossible not to feel a certain degree of reverence and kindly affection."

## Horticultural.

### The Dwarf Pear.

#### SUMMER PRUNING OR PINCHING.

[Read before the Hamilton Horticultural Club, and concluded from page 331 of the *Agriculturist*.]

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—According to your request at your last meeting, I now bring forward the concluding portion of paper on the Dwarf Pear, that is summer pinching—thinning the fruits, gathering and keeping the fruit &c. Summer pruning or pinching is to go over the trees at stated periods during the growing season, and remove the points of the growing shoots, (this operation is performed by the thumb-nail and fore-finger—hence, *pinching*) with a view to bring a young tree into a proper shape and a bearing state in the earliest possible time, and at the least expense of vegetative powers. When a tree or plant of any description grows with great vigor it has a tendency to grow gross, or watery as we usually term it; and instead of flowers and fruit, the produce (if a fruit tree) is but wood and leaves. This process continues from year to year; in some trees for an almost indefinite period—until the roots have exhausted all the nourishment within their reach, the tree arrives at maturity,—or some accidental occurrence take place that will bring it into a bearing state. The scientific fruit cultivator will not require to wait any lengthened period for his tree to produce abundantly: any more than a florist would think of occupying three or four years to grow specimen plants of Geraniums or Fuchsias. In growing either of the above species of plants they are highly fed at the roots and encouraged to grow luxuriantly; but its luxuriance is not allowed to run to water or expand itself in making strong watery shoots, for as soon as the shoot is the required length, its point is pinched off, and instead of one strong shoot, there will spring from the base of each leaf-stalk a shoot—not so strong as the one from

which it sprung, but strong enough for the purpose it is designed to serve. A similar process is employed in respect to the Dwarf Pear to bring about similar results. It is encouraged to made vigorous growth, and that growth kept in check by pinching. For some varieties of pears on *Quince stock*, pinching alone will bring a tree early into a bearing state, although it will take a longer time, and the tree will attain a larger size than if root-pruning and summer pruning are combined. About the middle or end of June, (according to the season) the branches will put forth young shoots,—from one, to three or more; select the one most suitable for a leader, pinch off all the others to three leaves from the base of the shoot, i. e., when the young shoots have made four leaves, pinch off the fourth leaf and the point of the shoot, thus leaving three leaves on the shortened shoot. When the leading shoot has made 6 or 7 inches growth that also may be pinched at that distance if the variety be a strong growth, but if weak grown it is better to shorten the leaves to 4 or 5 inches. If the wood mature the pruning knife will be little required at the winter or spring pruning; but if the wood is not perfectly ripened it must be cut into the mature wood, keeping in view the desired shape of the tree. The same operation is repeated annually as long as the tree requires it. A few years will suffice to bring the trees into a bearing state, and then they will make wood put sparingly.

*Thinning the Fruit.*—Young pear trees not only require the fruit thinned, but would be greatly benefitted were the half of the blossom buds thinned out also. Early in May or just before the buds open, if the tree is thickly covered with fruit-buds one-half may be cut off, and there will still be enough—and to spare for fruit. This will materially assist the shy setting varieties. I confess that I have not practised the thinning of pears to any great extent, seldom having cause to remove a perfectly formed fruit. But when Curculio or any other insect has made an attack so as to deform the fruit, I do not hesitate to thin sparingly. For small varieties, such as the *Seckel*, *Dearborn's Seedling*, *Madeleine*, &c., little thinning is necessary; but for large sorts such as *Napoleon*, *Beurre Diel*, and some seasons the *Duchesse d'Angoulême*, thinning is absolutely necessary, if size and quality of fruit be the object. Varieties that grow in clusters should be reduced to two, and, except those growing on the same spur, no two fruit ought to touch each other, from 6 to 8 inches apart all over the tree would be a very good distance, and the nearer approach to that we can come, the nearer to perfection we shall reach, in the cultivation of the Pear.

There are various opinions respecting the gathering of late pears. Some cultivators, and writers on the subject, say that late varieties should hang on the trees as long as there is no danger from severe frosts. But even the