

sleeping berths of a ship, and on these boards are spread the fruit in thin layers—usually but one course thick. Some of them have ventilation provided both from below and above; but those we have seen were not thus arranged, and there were no means of communication with the external air beyond what the doors and windows afforded. In these rooms apples and pears kept perfectly, ripening in succession, according to their season, and some of them keeping till apples and pears came again.

The secret of their success undoubtedly is the keeping up of a natural temperature of between 40° and 50°.

In our climate this arrangement would not answer. The severity of the winters demands more protection from a low temperature than the strongest walls would alone afford. Where a dry gravelly bank is at command, a room could be constructed, part beneath the surface, and part above—the exposed part covered with the earth thrown out from below; which would make a fruit room to perfection.

After all, the keeping of fruit on a large scale is not within the wants of most of our readers, who have but a few bushels, and in whose eyes a special fruit house would not be warranted by the small quantity to be kept. There is then no alternative but to make the best use of the facilities, cellars, rooms or out-buildings afford; and for this, barrels, boxes, cupboards and enclosed cases must be called into requisition; being careful to ensure a temperature of about 40° to 50°, not too damp or dry, and if somewhat dark the better.

CULTIVATING ORCHARDS.

RLL young orchards, for the first few years, should be cultivated in some manner, to some hoed crop, in order to allow the trees to get such an advance in growth, as not to be injured by a grass sward. The following remarks from the Gardener's Monthly are applicable to the case:

We must repeat, that we regard the plan of not allowing even the merest blade of vegetation to grow in an orchard, from the time it is set until it is old enough to cut up for firewood, as nothing but a sentiment. We have never seen such an orchard; and if any one can tell us of one, we will go and see it. It would not pay, and we need not point out why. The reasons are obvious, and all this,—granting, for the sake of argument, that the trees might be a little better for it.

First, To make an orchard profitable something must and will be grown on the ground during the first few years of its existence, at the very least. Supposing we admit cropping an injury, grass crops are least so of any. We do not, however, con-

sider it an injury, unless suffered to mature, or under other limited circumstances.

Second, It makes all the difference how a thing is done. An auctioneer was selling a lot of German sausages, of very uncertain age, and got but one bid. "Only fifty cents a barrel!" said thecrier; "why; they are worth more than that for manure." A city ruralizer took up the idea. He had just bought a farm in the country, and he sent out his ten barrels of sausages, with directions to Peter to drop one in each hill of corn; which was done accordingly.

The next week formed an awful time in that county. The inhabitants thought all the plagues of Egypt were to be repeated on them. Dogs by hundreds were running here and running there, each with an ancient and odorous sausage; and, if the mysterious hints we sometimes have of the unexplained scarcity of dogs about sausage time have any weight at all, certainly the dogs now had a full revenge. But the city farmer—he voted sausage manure a humbug of the purest water; and to this day nothing but the strongest barn-yard fertilizer will go down with him.

The fact is, the best of principles are fraught with danger in ignorant hands; and we can point to scores of instances where orchards are "ruined by grass;" and we know "many good orchards under cultivation." in good hands. Instead of principles we had better give you an example for practice.

If your land has a tenacious subsoil, underdrain it; then manure with whatever fertilizer you may decide on as best adapted to your soil and circumstances. Plow deep, then set your trees 25 feet apart, and sow at once with grass seed and white clover. The object now should be to get a tough sod; this is obtained by mowing often—say three times during the season around the trees, and twice at least over other parts of the ground, leaving the grass to lie where it falls. In some cases, perhaps, the grass may injure a particular tree; that tree may have weak roots, or the grass may get extra strong, and run the tree too severely for moisture. In such cases pull the grass out. Common sense will do more for you than the best rules. This is the art of gardening, to apply knowledge to varied and varying circumstances. Perhaps in that case, mulching may help it. The second year you may cut your crop of grass—never allowing it to get too old; in fact, make a rule to take two crops a year—imme-