

Undoubtedly winter varieties are those that are paying best.

The four varieties of apples that are receiving the most attention now are Baldwins, Ben Davis, Greenings, and Spys. As these varieties cover only the fall and winter months, it is certainly not wise to overlook entirely the early sorts, because there must spring up a market for the earlier sorts as soon as the others have got the market securely.

Top grafting has received a great deal of attention this spring. The average farmer thinks there is some mystery about grafting, so it is very gratifying this year to find him amenable to culture on the point. It is gratifying to discover how many farmers are taking up grafting, for where it has been put into practice it has been eminently successful. One Ontario farmer who had never grafted a tree in his life, after hearing Mr. McNeill's lecture some time ago, top grafted a large number in his orchard, and his losses were under 3 per cent. of the number grafted.

Grafting should be made a part of every boy's education. Notwithstanding all the care the nurseryman can give to his stock, serious mistakes will be made in the varieties, and if for no other reason than that every lad should know how to perform so simple an operation as grafting.

Trees have individualism just as animals have, and for reasons that we cannot explain, one tree with apparently no better

chance than another growing by its side, of the same variety, will be prolific while the other is comparatively barren.

The best orchards of the future will be those that are planted with some hardy vigorous stock like our Tallman Sweet, or Macmahon's White, and when these have formed a stock ahead at two or three years old they may be top grafted from selected trees.

As the nurseryman practices propagation he exercises no discrimination, because his cuttings are from productive and non-productive trees alike, and more often than not they are taken from trees that have not come into bearing at all, consequently he must perpetuate a good many poor specimens.

The man who top grafts has an opportunity to examine a thousand trees, and, selecting the best can top graft his whole orchard with the confident expectation of having nearly all his trees approach very near in merit that one in the thousand that he selected for his grafting.

One reason why top grafting cannot be recommended to the average farmer indiscriminately is that he cannot be always induced to do the work in the proper time or in the proper manner. He cannot always be trusted in the matter of selection. And he is too apt to be careless and indifferent, leaving the greater number of his trees ungrafted to the serious detriment of the symmetry of the orchard.

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**New York School of Agriculture and Horticulture.**—Mr. G. F. Powell's work at Briarcliff Manor, New York City, has already been referred to in these pages. Practical instruction is here given in all branches of Agriculture and Horticulture, with accom-

panying lectures and class room work. Finding the acreage at Briarcliff too limited for rapid development of the work, the trustees have purchased over 400 acres of land near Poughkeepsie for the permanent establishment of the school.