

Further on, we will point out, in a few lines devoted to each description of fruit, the soils that are peculiarly favourable to their growth.

The thing of all others that fruit trees dread is excess of moisture. In cold damp soils, the roots rot away. Some sort of drainage in such land is indispensable. In low lands, the easiest mode of draining is, generally, the digging of pretty deep ditches around the plantation. (1) In soils of this sort, fruit may be grown successfully if the trees are set out on raised mounds.

We do not advise planting in a low-lying valley subject to much humidity; for fogs and late frosts would hinder the fecundation of the flowers.

Exposure.—An exposure to the South can, as a rule, be only recommended for the vine; because, in spring, the sun would be too powerful in its effects on the orchard, since severe frosts, sometimes occurring at that season, might, when the sap is in circulation, damage the roots and ends of the stems (*pieds des tiges*).

Select such an exposure as is indicated by the direction of the dominant winds and the lie of the land. No need of enlarging on the damage done to an orchard "when the stormy winds do blow," to excuse impressing on the planter's mind the need of choosing a site protected from the prevailing winds of the locality, or, at the very least, of setting out one or two rows of trees as a wind-break.

Manures.—If trees are to be vigorous, to yield largely, and to be long-lived, they must be well fed. As long as they are young, the dressings, that are necessarily given in preparing the land for their reception, may be sufficient to keep them in good condition; but, when they are beginning to bear, and no other crop can be grown on the intervening spaces, a fresh supply of manure must be afforded. No imperfectly rotted horse or cow dung must be allowed to enter the orchard; for, the decomposition of such dung, taking place in the soil, will cause root-rot. Even thoroughly rotted dung has still one defect: its action is not lasting enough. The best of all is liquid manure, on account of its facility of application. Urine, or the leakage of dung-heaps, diluted with four times its bulk of water, with a pound of sulphate of iron to the 25 gallons, to disinfect it, is a useful application.

(1) Drain-pipes would be choked by the roots in a very short time.—*Ed.*

Action of the air.—The air should be allowed to circulate freely through every part of an orchard, and the soil should be kept constantly pulverised, to allow the air to penetrate as deep as the roots and thereby to strengthen them. The horse-or hand-hoe, kept frequently at work, will secure this. It must be remembered that absence of air in the soil is another cause of root-rot.

Action of light.—Light promotes vegetation and invigorates the tissues. When a tree is too much in the shade, the only branches it puts forth are long and slender, and never bear fruit. It is light alone that imparts to the fruit flavour and colour; so, it is clear, that the spot chosen for an orchard or fruit-garden should never be affected by too much shade.

Household Matters.

(CONDUCTED BY MRS. JENNER FUST).

Looking back for the last fifty years, one is filled with wonder at the vast advances made in everything.

In no community has this vast stride taken a firmer hold than in the farming population.

A man who owns a farm, near a town where he can sell the produce of it need never fear a rainy day.

Education will teach him when he has made a mistake how to rectify and profit by the same, also when he takes his produce to market, he must not expect to keep all the returns for himself, but must be content to share with the land a part, in fact never to return empty handed to the land that has yielded him so much.

His must be the head to guide the uneducated minds with a firm hand, to teach and show them how best to make use of the wonderful instruments they have to handle in cultivating the land.

In no place will prosperity be shewn on a farm of this sort better than in the house.

In it will be seen all the little helps so necessary to the comfort of the workers.

Where the milk is sold, or sent to the factory for cheese or butter, a great work is taken off the hands of the mistress of the house, thus giving her time to look about, and she will also have more time to look after and guide those who help in the work of the house.

Let no person think for a moment that the