The objection to the sod mulch is the shelter it provides for insects and fungous diseases. Young trees present a different problem: the trees must be grown, and consequently it is advisable to produce as much growth as is consistent with blight resistance. Prune as little as possible. Some limbs or branches may be removed in order to balance the framework of the tree, but limbs should not be cut back unless absolutely necessary in order to form a suitable head. Grow intercrops; oats, if provision can be made for convenient cutting; potatoes, corn or any other hoed crop. A practice that is sometimes followed is to cultivate one year, seed to clover and timothy in July and cut for hay for one or two years; cultivation being practised only once in two or possibly three years.

The idea is to grow the trees as steadily and uniformly as possible. It is a very difficult task, and only with the most constant care can the best results be obtained.

A few young orchards have by choice of the owner been left in sod and the grass cut for hay. The practice is apparently to secure as little blight development

Fig. 10. An old orchard showing a strip of sod close by trees.

as possible, but growth is very slow, and what fruit is produced is small and knotty.

It would appear that with our present varieties there is no permanent relief from the ravages of Fire Blight, and that since blight resistant varieties are not available, the proper cultivation and treatment of the soil is the most important factor, if not the only practical means of saving many orchards, and developing new ones. It is claimed by many that constant cutting will control the blight, but in view of the fact that it cannot be all cleaned up in a neighborhood at once, being always present somewhere, if not in the orchard in the near vicinity, the cutting process must go on continually at the expense of the tree.

It is necessary for the grower to study his soil and to work out the proper balance between cultivation and sod, between manuring and intercropping, to suit