

## PYRAMID PEAR TREES.

THE Pyramid or cone form of training pear trees, where they stand alone or in a small garden, is a very ornamental one and at the same time calculated to secure a good crop. A strong pyramid, well pruned, symmetrical and thriving, is certainly a handsome object. Like the dwarf or fan form the pyramid requires more or less annual pruning. One must of course begin with a young tree that has branches to the ground. Do not expect too vigorous a growth; from five to seven main branches a year are all that should be allowed. When laying out the branches for the next year's growth, it is as well to prune close to the bud which is to continue the growth, leaving a small spur attached to tie the



FIG. 1616.—PYRAMIDAL PRUNING.

growing shoot to in order that it may grow in the proper direction. Or it might do to cut the branches three or four inches above the bud, removing all buds on it, and tie the growing shoots to this spur, which may afterwards be taken off. It is a mistake to prune strong-growing varieties too much, and it is equally wrong to allow the lateral branches to grow too long. Therefore it will be best in pruning to use a judicious moderation and keep the tree properly balanced. A well proportioned pyramid should have a diameter about two-thirds of its height. If a tree of the proper age fails to bear, it may, if well proportioned, be left unpruned for two or three years. A circular incision of the bark about one-half inch wide at the base and kept open may be tried, or even root-pruning resorted to, to bring it into bearing. The illustrations give a good general idea of a pyramid pear tree after winter pruning, also one in fruit — Farm and Home.

EDWARD A. ROGERS.—The introduction of Rogers' hybrid grapes marked a new era in American grape culture. The death of the originator, Mr. Edward A. Rogers, of Salem, Mass., has just been announced. This occurred at Peabody, Mass., on the 30th March. It is remarkable, considering the grand results of Mr. Rogers' experiments, that more work in the same line has not been

attempted. All he did was to plant under a hot-bed frame a vine of the European race, and one of the American Fox grapes. They then hybridized, naturally, as one might say, as the results proved. If the path marked out by Mr. Rogers had been followed further, valuable results might have rewarded the explorer.—*Mechanics' Monthly*.

