

certain extent carried out into practice; and yet but few seem to be aware of its value in retaining the nourishment as well as the moisture in the earth, and thus, both those means, contributing to the luxurious and healthful condition of plants and trees already rooted and well established in the soil. But observation, however, as well as actual experience, has fully convinced me that trees will not only put forth more luxuriantly, and grow more vigorously, but that the fruit will be far larger, fairer, and juicier, for mulching during the hot season. And I hazard the observation, that in the culture of pears, and certain kinds of apples, such as the Roxbury russet, that are generally small and knurly on a gravelly bottom, careful mulching is almost equal to a clay subsoil.

And here let me say, by way of parenthesis, that in the cultivation of these fruits, it is not, I think, any nutritive element in the clay soil, but only its power of retaining moisture, that gives it the advantage over a gravelly substratum. By carefully mulching, however, I do not mean a wisp of straw, hay, weeds, or small brush, nor a shovel of spent tan, hub-chips, or sawdust, placed just round the trunk of the tree, but a covering of ground, if possible, as far as the roots extend. There are some absurd people who seem to think, if we are to judge them by their practice, that somewhere at the butt of the tree is a great mouth in which the tree takes its food and drink; and accordingly, they put all the nourishment, whether liquid or solid, "right round" the trunk. Whereas, the truth is, the numerous little mouths that drink in the moisture, and the nutritious elements that are dissolved in it, are in the little spongioles that form the very terminations of the radical branches; and our course of treatment should be based upon this fact, in watering, manuring and mulching.

Mulching, then in the first place, prevents, in light, gravelly soils—and in dry seasons, in all soils—the evaporation of the moisture necessary to that flow of sap, that shall make a luxuriant growth, fine foliage, and fair, large, juicy fruit.

And second, as the elements that nourish the tree are contained in the moisture in solution, and a dry state of the earth must thus cut off the supply of food, mulching actually nourishes the tree. In proof of this, I might, would my space permit, adduce numerous facts; but experiments are so easily tried, that such evidence is hardly necessary here.

#### LIQUID MANURE FOR FRUIT TREES.

It is a fact satisfactorily established with me that there is nothing connected with a farm in the line of fertilizers, that appears to produce a greater effect on fruit trees than liquid manure. Thousands of gallons of this invaluable fluid are wasted on farms annually, which, if applied to the trunks and roots of trees, would benefit them ten times more than it would cost to make an application of the liquid. No one need apprehend any danger in applying it, for it bites not, nor does it cause any serious derangement in the olfactory region. Where trees have been injured by drought, and have been set out heedlessly, it produces a most striking effect, causing a circulation of the sap at once astonishing. It is unquestionably preferable to solid manures, for its effect is almost immediate. It penetrates the pores of the earth and comes in contact with the roots and fibres as soon as an application is made; whereas, in apply-

ing coarse manure, such is not the case, it requiring several showers to wash the strength of it out.

The manner in which I have applied it is to dig a cavity around the body of the tree, and then fill up with the liquor. In a few moments, it will be absorbed ready for replacing the dirt, thus preventing evaporation. The introduction of a paifull around the trunk of a tree, at an interval of a month during the growing season, is sufficient to produce the most astonishing results. An extraordinary growth immediately commences and shoots are forced out in a few weeks, truly astounding both in length and size. I have tried soap suds and am convinced that they do not contain all the invigorating and enriching powers common to liquid manure. It must be acknowledged, however, that soap suds are efficient, causing a rapid growth when judiciously applied, but not equal in my opinion to the liquid.

Now, without being considered wayward in advancing ideas, I would suggest that those who have the fluid on hand, and are not backward in coming in contact with dirt, would try the liquid and see if the effects are not satisfactory.

W. TAPPEN.

Baldwinsville, N. Y. August, 1851.

#### THE VALUE OF TREES

Beside their intrinsic value, how desolate is a home on a farm or in the city, without fruit or ornamental trees. To the generality of people you might as well recommend a person without mind, as offer to sell a homestead without trees or shrubbery. One thing should be observed in planting, to select good varieties of fruit trees, as it is a disgrace to any one to plant and grow others. Be mindful of these things and a reward will follow.

We are reminded of this subject by a sale of land just made in this vicinity—one particular advantage and inducement to the purchaser being the assortment of choice trees already grown to his hands.

J. H. W.

#### THE USE OF FRUIT.

Instead of standing in any fear of a generous consumption of ripe fruits, we regard them as positively conducive to health. The very maladies commonly assumed to have their origin in the free use of apples, peaches, cherries, melons and wild berries, have been quite as prevalent, if not equally destructive, in seasons of scarcity. There are so many erroneous notions entertained of the bad effects of fruit, that it is quite time a counteracting impression should be promulgated, having its foundation in common sense, and based on the common observation of the intelligent. We have no patience in reading the endless rules to be observed in this particular department of physical comfort. No one, we imagine, ever lived longer or freer from the paryoxisms of disease, by discarding the delicious fruits of the land in which he finds a home. On the contrary, they are necessary to the preservation of health, and are therefore caused to make their appearance at the very time when the condition of the body, operated upon by deteriorating causes not always understood, requires their grateful, renovating influences.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*