

Barren Apple Trees—How to Make Them Bear.

"Through the kindness of the Hon. John Whittlesey, the *Herald* is able to lay the following important fact before our readers:

"First, the Northern Spy, Red Astrachan, and a number of other choice varieties of apples, have failed through this region to bear apples, although ten or fifteen years old. Two years ago, Dr. Hull, of Alton, delivered a lecture at Benton Harbor, in which he recommended root pruning. Mr. O. A. Winchester, of St. Joseph, of Archer & Co.'s Nursery, had ten Northern Spy apple trees, thirteen or more years old, which had never blossomed, or born a crop. After the lecture, though late in the season, he directed his man to root-prune one tree, and half root-prune another. Last year, no favorable results appeared, probably from the lateness of the root-pruning. This year, the tree which was root-pruned all around, is full of blossoms, while that side of the tree half root-pruned alone is full of blossoms, the un-root pruned side having none at all. Every other Northern Spy apple tree, as usual, contains no blossoms.

"This fact should lead our orchardists to try the experiment this season. Now is the time to begin, and the work of root-pruning should be finished by the first of June."

Management of Fruit Trees that Bear Every Alternate Year.

It is common for many fruit trees to yield a crop of fruit only once in two years. Some pomologists have assumed that the fruitful year always occurs on a season designated in the calendar by an uneven number; and the observations of others have been confined to trees that have yielded fruit during the season represented by an even number in the computation of centuries. Thus far in the progress of scientific pomology, no plausible reason has been adduced to show why the fruitful season may not occur during a year designated by an even or an uneven number. The fact that fruit trees, which have been accustomed to yield a crop what we denominate to be an "odd year," have been so managed as to produce the accustomed supply on an "even year," assures pomologists that the fruitfulness, or want of productiveness, is not influenced either way, by the season represented by an odd or an even number.

The presentation of a few pomological facts touching this subject, will assure us beyond all doubt, that the fruitfulness of a tree—aside from certain causes beyond the control of mortals—is subject to familiar pomological laws, which every intelligent pomologist understands. It is understood that the fruit buds of an apple tree, from which the crop of apples must be produced during the season of 1871, were formed in the growing season of 1870. If there had been any occurrences to prevent the formation of fruit buds in 1870, the tree, could not produce fruit during the season of 1871. It is well understood, also, that when a tree is growing rapidly, it cannot yield a bountiful supply of fruit; and when every branch and twig bends with a heavy crop, the spray and the buds cannot be expected to make more than a small and feeble growth. Hence, so large a proportion of the vital energies of the fruit tree bearing a heavy burden of fruit, is employed in the development of the crop, that the buds for the crop of the succeeding season cannot be properly unfolded. Therefore the season following the year of an abundant crop is appropriated solely to the development of fruit buds; and as there is no fruit requiring the energies of the tree, the whole vital force is concentrated in producing wood and fruit buds. The next season, whether the year be odd or even, nature having made preparation in buds, there will be a bountiful crop of fruit; and if none of the buds or young fruit are broken off, all the vital powers of the tree will centre towards the full development of the fruit, to the serious neglect of the crop of buds.

An intelligent friend has a valuable apple tree, which yielded a bountiful crop of apples once in two years. He expressed a desire that pomologists could have sufficient skill to make that tree bear a moderate crop of fruit every season, rather than a heavy crop one year and nothing the next, as the variety was so excellent, they greatly desired a small supply, at least, every season. He was assured that if he would whp off all the blossoms on one half the tree-top, the portion defoliated would yield a supply the next season. As he knew that if the tree produced fruit on only one half the top, there would be more than his family could make use of, he

reluctantly tried the experiment, in the success of which he cherished no confidence, and whipped off every blossom to be seen within the area of about half of the top. The result was just as it always will be under similar circumstances; there was a supply of fruit, the following season, on that part of the tree from which the blossoms had been removed, while the other portion of the branches yielded no fruit.

The same result could have been attained by whipping off one half or more of the blossoms over the entire tree. By removing the blossoms the specimens of fruit would have been greatly lessened. Hence the energies of the tree would have been adequate to the perfect development of the limited crop, and also to the preparation of the fruit buds for the crop of the succeeding season.—S. Edwards Todd, in *Tilton's Journal of Horticulture*.

LOSS OF HAIR IN HORSES.—The following is very useful in cases where there is falling out of the hair of the mane and tail, viz:—Glycerine two ozs., sulphur, one oz., acetate of lead two drachms, water eight ounces. To be well mixed, and applied by means of a sponge.

Swindling Honest Farmers.

We copy the following from the *Williamsport Daily Gazette*, and it suggests three points for caution to all farmers, namely, to be careful never to do no business with other than truly honest and honorable men, no matter how good a bargain is promised; secondly, keep out of the way of entire strangers; and thirdly, be careful about signing your names to any papers, unless dealing with old neighbors, or those whose integrity is established.

Among the many swindling operations of the day, the patent right dodge is largely practiced on farmers, and we have heard of several cases in this county within a year. The following note is a copy of one now in use by these sharpers. It will appear at first sight to be very simple, and no person wishing to take an agency for any of the many patents, would hesitate to sign it:

SMITHVILLE, PA., April 15th 1871.

One year after date, I promise to pay A. Sharp or order, Two Hundred and seventy five dollars worth of Seeding Machines for value received, at ten per cent. per annum, said Ten Dollars, when due, is payable at Smithville, Pa.

JOHN SMITH, Agent for A. Brown.

Witness: JOHN DOE.

Now, having read the above carefully, and supposing it to be all right for ten dollars, just cut it in two between the words "or" and "bearer" in the first line, and you find that the left-hand piece is a perfect note for \$275. Having induced a farmer to accept an agency, as specified in the original note, and having obtained his signature, the sharper departs. He then cuts off the right hand portion, proceeds to the nearest broker or banker, to whom he offers to sell the note at a discount on the plea of needing the money. The signer is generally a responsible person, well known to business men of the village, and the note is purchased. When the note falls due it is presented for collection, and as the signatures are indisputable, the honest farmer is compelled to pay \$275, when he only supposed that he owed ten dollars.

This is one of the most infamous of all tricks of deception, and is largely practiced throughout the country. Farmers should cut this out and preserve it carefully, in order to guard against being imposed upon by unscrupulous scoundrels.

Crops for Soiling.

The articles in *THE RURAL HOME* urging farmers to grow some crops, which yield more food for stock than those in general cultivation will call the attention of thoughtless farmers to a very important branch of their business. Cabbage is mentioned as one crop that might be grown with profit, and for late fall and early winter feed, I have no doubt it would prove highly remunerative. I have often fed cabbage to cattle, in a small way, and know that it is very superior food for muck cows. It is also excellent for store hogs, and if one was cooking food for fattening hogs, I think cabbage might be put into good advantage.

But what I wish now to urge particularly on farmers, is the profit of having various crops which may be used for soiling, or helping out if the pastures get short, during the summer and fall. One does not wish to devote more land to pasture than is necessary on a medium-sized farm, where grain growing is the main business, and it is unfortunate too, if the pasture comes short of supplying the demand made on it. We can guard against both these contingencies by having a reserve of food which may be cut and fed to cattle either on their pasture or in the yards or stables. This supply of food should be such that it may be

saved for winter use in case it is not needed before.

Clover is the most convenient, and the earliest forage plant for use in the first half of summer. A small piece should be on hand near the barn, to cut for the teams and cows, if June pasture is not sufficient, and in any case it will be found extremely handy for the teams if they are hard worked. A piece can easily be cut over twice, and if there is a surplus, it is where it can be readily made into hay and stored under cover. One acre of good clover feed in this way is equal to four or five acres in pasture.

Next, a patch of corn, sown in drills, should be prepared for later use. One acre of this for late summer and early fall use, is equal to seven or eight acres of pasture at that time of year. One acre to a dozen head of cattle will help out largely if the season should turn dry; and if, otherwise, and the pastures are sufficient, it will make a large quantity of winter food. In either case there can be nothing lost, but much may be gained.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Home.

By I. F. ISCH.

Poets have written and choristers sung
Of the beauties and pleasures of home,
Still 'tis a theme that never grows old,
Whatever the changes that come.

The house on the hill, O how dear is the name,
Then the old-fashioned orchard and farm;
The bridge o'er the brook, the spring by the stone,
And old Ponto who watched us from harm.

Our fancy returns to the garden and lane,
Where we played in our infantine days;
To the hawthorn that stood on the top of the hill,
Where the birds sang their beautiful lays.

The trysting-tree, too, we must never forget—
It stands at the foot of the lane;
On its soft smooth bark our names we carved,
And promised to meet there again.

How to Produce Sexes at Will.

Although stock breeding has long been elevated to a science, and many valuable theories deduced as to the means of improving stock, yet but little has been accomplished in the way of regulating the production of the sexes, which oftentimes would be of incalculable value to the stock raiser. That such is not impracticable has been already demonstrated with considerable success. One of the first writers on the subject is M. Thury, Professor in the Academy of Geneva, who observed that the queen bee lays female eggs at first and male eggs afterwards; that with hens the first laid eggs give females, the last male products; that young bulls who meet the female at the first signs of heat generate heifers more frequently than old bulls, who are exhausted and do service later; that mares shown the stallion late in their period drop horse colts rather than fillies. Upon these observations he formulated the following law for stock raisers: "If you wish to produce females, give the male at the first sign of heat; if you wish to produce males, give him at the end of the heat." A celebrated Swiss stock raiser, son of the President of the Swiss Agricultural Society, Canton de Vaud, in publishing his experience in 1867, says, in speaking of the accuracy of this law: "In the first place on twenty-two successive occasions, I desired to have heifers. My cows were of Schwitz breed, and my bull a June Durham. I succeeded in these cases. Having bought a pure Durham cow, it was very important for me to have a new bull to supersede the one I had bought at great expense, without leaving to chance the production of a male. So I followed the direction of Professor Thury, and the success has proved once more the success of the law. I have obtained from my Durham bull, six more bulls (Schwitz Durham cows,) for field work, and, having chosen

cows of the same color and height, I have obtained perfect matches of oxen. My herd amounted to forty cows of every age—in short, I have made in all twenty-nine experiments of the new method, and in every one I succeeded in the production of what I was looking for—male or female. I had not one single failure. All the experiments have been made by myself, without any persons intervention; consequently, I do declare that I consider as real, and certainly perfect, the method of Professor Thury."

It is sufficient to say that experiments on the same law have been tried by other eminent Agriculturalists with equal success.

Hundreds of our readers will doubt and even ridicule the idea as thousands before them have doubted other good discoveries. To show again how prejudiced mankind is against any novelties, we quote the following as illustration:—

POTATOES IN FRANCE.

It is reported that one day, in the laboratory of Mayer, a potato was put into Parmentier's hand for a chemical purpose. He examined it with attention, and enquired of the Professor whether it was employed as food. "For Pigs," said the Professor. "Ah," said Parmentier, "pigs are no bad judges—they discovered truffles; why not follow their example in this respect also, and eat potatoes?" The Professor assured him that the root was quite unfit for human food. But Parmentier was not to be dissuaded from making the investigation. Inviting two or three friends to assist in the investigation, he boiled a pot of potatoes, and enjoyed them much. Louis XVI and his Queen had a dish of potatoes served at table, and found them, as Parmentier had declared, an excellent vegetable. But their introduction brought upon him some angry criticisms from the "friends of the people," who declared that the common people were—thanks to Parmentier—to be fed on food for swine. Happily, this prejudiced view of Parmentier's intention subsided, and the potato became an "institution" of the dinner-table in France as well as England.

How to destroy Insects in your Orchards.

The address of J. W. Robson before the Jo Daviess County (Illinois) Horticultural Society, has some excellent points relating to orchard culture, and especially the depredations of insects, and he recommends every orchardist to observe these few details every season.

1st. "Encourage the black-cap titmouse and the hairy woodpecker, which destroy the insects in the pupa state.
2nd. Light small bonfires in the orchard, on dark nights, after the sun has set. This will destroy the moth.
3rd. Pick up wormy fruit as soon as it falls, run it through the cider mill, or throw it to the hogs to be eaten.
4th. Strips of wooden cloth tied around the trunks when the trees are in bloom, and examined twice a week, will destroy those that have escaped and crawled there for shelter. They will be found generally in a transformation state, between worm and pupa.

5th. Place a bunch of weeds or soft hay in the crotch of the trees at the same time, and examine frequently. You have only to look at these dishes of beautiful fruit, to see how this insect destroys the appearance and lessens the market value of the apple.

Brother Horticulturalists, up and be doing, bearing in mind that eternal vigilance is the price of handsome perfect fruit."

He who does his best, however little it may be, is always to be distinguished from him who does nothing.