

do for a few small trees; but for an orchard a padded mallet is necessary. A common nail hammer applied to the stump of a limb is excellent, where such stumps can be found, or can be made as well as not.

The writer is convinced that the insect can be mastered in this way. Eternal vigilance is the price of plums.

The time required for this work is much less than a novice would suppose; an average of one minute to a tree will, in most cases be ample. There is a spice of excitement about the work, akin to hunting and fishing, which helps it amazingly, particularly with small boys. Pinching the insect is generally recommended; but our practice is to bottle them. I use a homoeopathic pill-bottle, carried in the vest pocket. As they "play possum" when they fall, they can be picked up and dropped into the bottle about as easily as a grain of wheat. My daily round during the season was among sixty-eight peach trees and two plum trees, and the largest haul of the pests was on May 13th, when we captured 94. The lowest was 10, on May 29th; but the next day we found 75. They grew scarce in June, and the strawberry crop then coming on, we soon fell into irregular habits, and gradually gave up the work. But the result was excellent. The peach trees (all young, and bearing their first crop) matured about forty bushels, and the two plum trees nearly all they set. One was so heavily loaded that it had to be propped up—a result that should be avoided by thinning out when the fruit is small. The curculio will do a splendid work at thinning out, if let alone; but the trouble is that he exercises no discrimination, and takes the whole.

POPULAR PEARS.

BEURRE D' ANJOU.

We know of no new variety of pear better worthy of an unqualified commendation than this. It is of foreign origin, but first introduced and fruited in this country by Marshall P. Wilder, of Dorchester, Mass. Since that time it has gradually been making its way into the orchards and nurseries of the country, uniformly growing well, and wherever fruited, held in the highest esteem. As an orchard fruit it is exceedingly profitable; as a family fruit far more enjoyable than the Duchesse d'Angoulême. Uniformly successful on standard stocks, it can also be grown as a dwarf upon quince roots, but is not so productive, and not so strong a grower.

Mr. Quin refers to it as follows: "Beurre d'Anjou, may be termed an early Winter variety, that is rapidly becoming a favorite among fruit growers. It requires some time for the tree to come into bearing; but when it does, it bears regular crops of fine large pears, of good quality, that bring high prices in the market. In our orchard the tree is a moderate grower. It has borne only a few specimens until the trees were twelve years old; since then they have become more fruitful each succeeding year."

Mr. Elliot also gives it his endorsement as follows:

"The tree is a rapid but healthy grower, with strong shoots forming a fine pyramidal shape, until loaded with fruit from the ends of its branches, it becomes somewhat diverging. So much is it valued by those who have grown it, that one man

has one-fifth of his entire orchard of this sort. The wood of young shoots, is short-jointed yellowish olive color, with grey specks, large oblong leaves, rounded at the base."

The following description is by Downing:

"Fruit large, obtuse pyriform; stem short, thick and fleshy, inserted in a cavity surrounded by russet; skin, greenish yellow, sprinkled with russet, sometimes shaded with dull crimson, and sprinkled thickly with brown and crimson dots; flesh, whitish, not very fine, melting, juicy, with a brisk vinous flavor; pleasantly perfumed; very good to best; season, October and November."

We hardly think the description equal to the reality. The specimens we obtained for illustration, were of a fine yellow color, very handsomely shaded with crimson, while the flavor is simply delicious. The tree is quite productive, and wherever the fruit is known in the markets, very remunerative prices have been realized—this season \$16 to \$20 per barrel. The tree is an excellent grower in the nursery; but when full-grown, the peculiar appearance of its hanging leaves on hundreds of branches, impart a unique and beautiful look to the entire orchard. We advise all pear culturists to grow it largely.—*Horticulturist*.

MISTLETOE.

In a late number of *Nature* we find the following, which brings to mind many of the old superstitions connected with this wonderful plant:

"The entire existence of this parasite is full of interest, even though the mystery of its birth has been removed. Modern research confirms the accuracy of the old distich, which expresses thus its origin:

"The thrush, when he pollutes the bough,
Sows for himself the seeds of woe;"

and perhaps the increase of mistletoe may be partly attributable to the disuse of its product (bird lime), and the greater immunity which thrushes in consequence enjoy. But those who desire to do so may easily propagate mistletoe without their intervention. All that is necessary for success is to introduce very carefully a few seeds into a shallow notch made in the bark of an apple-tree, and bind it round delicately with bass or damp moss. The apple-tree is the surest stock, for, though it is found elsewhere, yet there is a certain constancy in the apparent caprice shown by the mistletoe in the selection of its victims. It occurs frequently on the poplar, hawthorne, willow, and lime; never on the beech, holly, cherry, and walnut; rarely on the chestnut and pear, and only on some few instances upon the oak. Probably the rarity of its occurrence on the oak contributed to the reverence with which, under those circumstances, it was regarded by our British ancestors. To them a mistletoe-oak was a tree beloved of heaven—a symbol of life and death—a promise of renewal of strength to the leafless monarch of the glade. When the New-Year's festival came round, the Arch-Druid, clothed in white, mounted the tree, and cut the mistletoe with a golden sickle. As it fell into the white cloth held to receive it, two white bulls also fell to the ground as sacrificial victims; and the prayer went forth from the Druid's lips that God would prosper his gift, and make it a charm potent against poison, and a certain cure for sterility.

"Before turnips were extensively cultivated, old Tusser's precept was regularly followed: