

CARE OF STREET TREES.

Roland D. Craig, F.E., Dominion Forestry Branch.

THE attractiveness of a town or city depends very largely upon the trees planted along its streets. They are among the first things which a stranger notices in formulating his impressions as to whether it is a good place to live in or not. One does not need to be a lover of nature to appreciate the refreshing shade of a row of trees along the sidewalk on a hot summer day, or the protection afforded from the cold winds in winter. What a relief and rest the weary eyes find in the verdure of a plantation of trees after the glaring pavements and shining windows of a bare street. Trees, by transpiring through their leaves large quantities of moisture and by the coolness of their own bodies, exert an important influence in reducing the temperature in summer. They also exert a beneficial influence by absorbing poisonous carbonic acid gas from the air, and giving in return pure oxygen for the use of man.

Though one of the most important factors in making the life of urban populations healthy and happy, the trees of our streets, as a rule receive very little consideration on the part of municipal authorities. In many cases the planting and care of the trees is left to the individual citizens, in front of whose property the streets run, and in few places are men trained in tree culture employed to look after this important work, and for this reason many well meant efforts result in failure. It is the object of the writer to point out briefly a few of the mistakes commonly made in the management of street trees, and to make some suggestions which may be of use to those who are interested in this work.

Lack of Uniformity.

The appearance of many of our streets is spoiled by a lack of uniformity in planting, especially where it is left to the individual property owners. One man plants elms, the next maples, the next horse chestnuts and probably the next two none at all, so that all order and harmony is lost and it results very frequently in the slower-growing trees being suppressed by their neighbors