

spring after planting, preferably when the buds are just beginning to show green. It will be found then, if the tree has established itself, that some of the buds near the top, very generally three, have made a strong upstanding growth, coming out from the stem at a very acute angle, lower down more shoots will have not made such a strong growth. It is from these latter that the first tier of branches may be chosen.

Leaders—Of the one, two or three strong upright shoots near the top, select the best and most upright as the leader and sacrifice the remainder. If they are retained with the idea that they will become satisfactory side branches, amenable to discipline, it will be found to be a mistake. They will not do so, but will for years be a source of bother, competing annually with the leader for supremacy. Cut them out, leaving but the one leader.

Side Shoots—From the other shoots lower down select, if possible, three side branches. These must be evenly distributed around the tree in a horizontal direction. In a perpendicular direction they must be well separated, the angle they make with the trunk should be large, nearly a right angle. If there are not three shoots that satisfy these conditions then leave only two or one that does; better one right than three wrong; plenty more shoots will grow during the current year to fill any vacancies.

(N. B.—Certain varieties of trees, for instance the Northern Spy, have shoots

which almost invariably spring from the stem at an acute angle. In such cases it cannot be expected that shoots will be found to satisfy the third condition mentioned above. It is as well then to use a spreader to cause the shoot to grow in the desired direction).

Back Cutting—Having selected the shoots which are to remain, and removed the others, cutting them off close up to the stem, it is necessary to cut them back. It will be observed that the buds on the upper end of a wood shoot are better developed than those near to the base. The object in view is to give the leader the start and to have it keep ahead of the rest, therefore do not cut it back too much. Cut it amongst those buds towards the upper end, perhaps one-third of its length down from the tip.

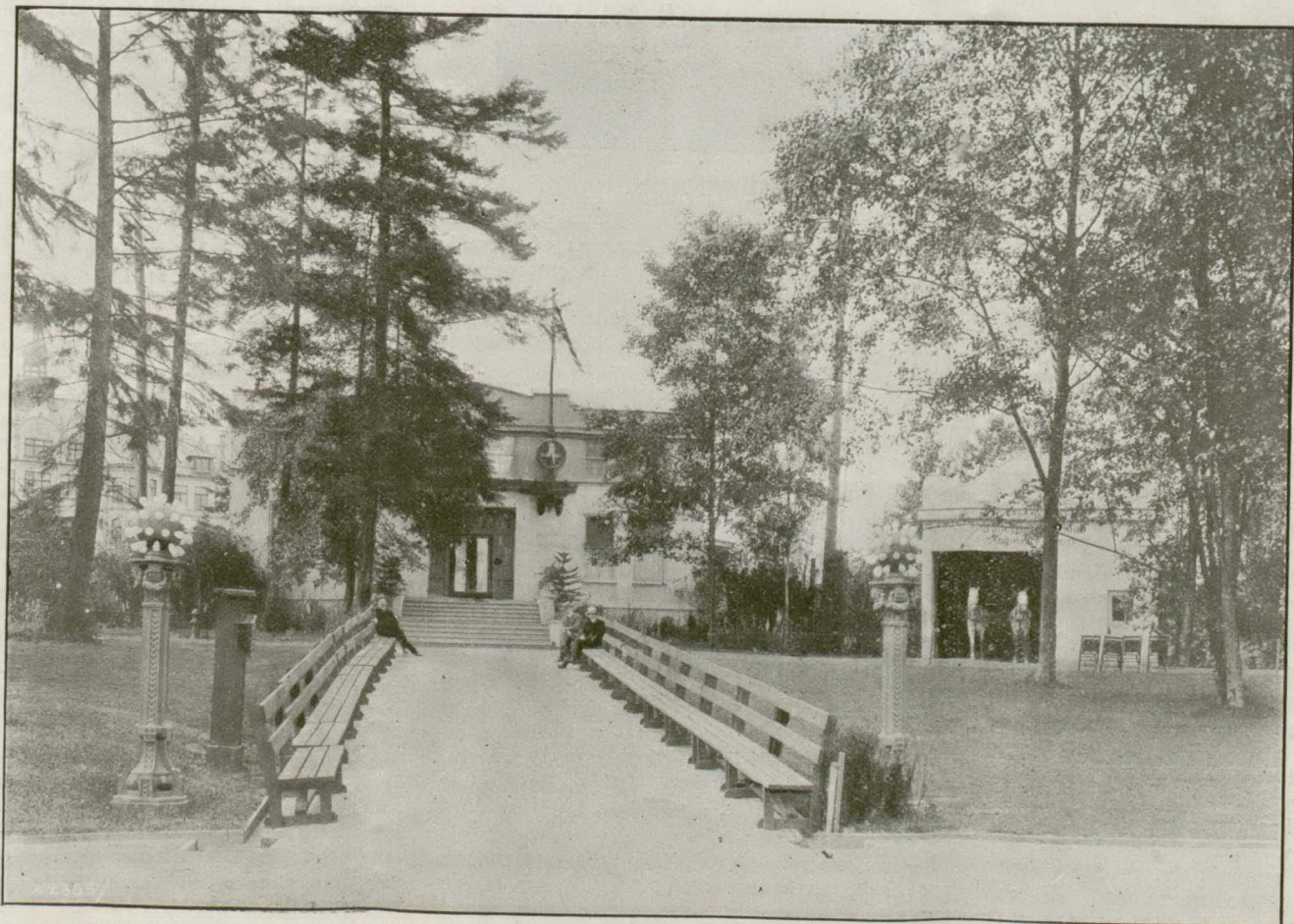
In regard to the side branches. Perhaps amongst those retained one or two are weak, and one or two are strong; these latter, perhaps, nearly as strong as the leader. It is they which require to be watched or they will start racing for supremacy with the leader. Put them in their right place right away. Cut them back to within three buds or so of the stem. The buds here will be very much backward and by the time they have been forced into growth the leader will have shoots several inches in length and there is no fear that the side branches will catch up.

Next Year—The following spring the process will be much the same. The

leader will be treated practically as was the whole tree the year before. The lower tier of branches of last year will probably have made two or more shoots. Almost invariably one will be enough to leave, and that should be cut back among the well developed buds towards the extremity or about one-third in from the tip. The next year will be time enough for these side branches to have side shoots.

Third Spring—The next year will be a repetition of the first and second except that there will be an additional tier of branches to prune. The treatment of this lower tier, this year, will be somewhat similar in principle to that of the leader the first year. The cutting of the preceding year will probably have resulted in two or three strong shoots growing from the end and one or two weaker shoots growing further in on it. Of the strong shoots at the end but one should be left and that cut back as before about one-third; of the others one or two may be left as there is room or not.

After this, if all has gone right, as it will have done with a normal well-growing tree handled as suggested, the tree may be considered to be formed and it is usually unnecessary to continue cutting back the leading shoots. The leader will be firmly established and the tree will tend to keep the form in which it has been trained. Subsequent shaping will simply consist of thinning out superfluous shoots and branches, keep-



EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, A-Y-P. EXPOSITION.