

be agents of reliable nurserymen, the stuff they sell is generally the cull or refuse of second class nurseries purchased for a mere nothing.

After the trees, good or bad, are purchased, as a general rule, what treatment do they receive? They are thrust into a small hole, in badly prepared ground, and left to take care of themselves. They won't and can't do so, and whoever they are bought from is blamed. There are not so many things to be guarded against in "apple culture," and these will try and point out briefly.

Never plant a tree unless the ground is in proper condition by previous preparation. Almost any soil except pure sand or *very* stiff clay will grow apple trees, provided it does not *hold* water. Make large holes, not too deep.

Only plant varieties suitable to your locality, and not too many varieties. Keep those of the *same season together*.

Do not plant too closely; 25 feet apart each way is the least I would recommend. Buy only from reliable parties, and do not object to give a good price for a good article.

There is only one subject more I will touch upon—the most important, in my opinion.

PRUNING.

If the trees are properly attended to in the nursery and for a few years after being planted, much less is required than is generally thought.

My experience tells me, that for *general* pruning in cold regions, from 15th March to 15th April is the best time. In July, a great deal can be done by *rubbing* off shoots which appear where they ought not, and if this were done, general pruning would be less requisite. Dr. Hoskins' remarks on pruning I fully endorse.

The system of pruning, as practised, is barbarous in the extreme. All are pruned alike, at all seasons! How? With a saw, generally very blunt; the pruning knife, which is the only instrument required, except occasionally, is kept in the pocket. It is so easy to snip off a branch with a saw; a stub an inch or two long will soon heal over! When?