

may, of course, plant whatever varieties please their fancy, but to the latter class he had some advice to offer. He had no sympathy with men who had no conscience in their business so long as it paid in dollars and cents; who would grow fruit to sell which they knew was unfit to eat; who grew Kieffer pears, for example, and sold them on their exterior appearance, knowing the buyer would be cheated in his purchase.

Kieffer pears often do not bring 10 cents a basket in Philadelphia market, for in that city their real value is beginning to be known; and the worst is not yet, for there are immense orchards of this variety coming into bearing, and shortly there will be more Kieffer pears than can be sold at a paying price. "I had the first Kieffer pear orchard in Western New York," said he, "and might have been a rich man if I had at the beginning planted it largely, but to-day I have not twenty Kieffer trees, and shall never plant another." He thought perhaps the Kieffer would make a good stock on which to top graft the Bosc.

PROPER SOIL FOR PLUMS.

ONE of the frequent mistakes made by beginners when planting an orchard is in the choice of soil. They plant a plum orchard on light sand, a soil quite unsuited to the plum, and then when the trees never give paying crops they say plum culture is unprofitable. Probably sandy loam encourages too great wood growth, while a clay soil gives but moderate wood growth and throws the tree into fruit bearing. In some parts of the Niagara district we have a sandy loam at the surface and a clay subsoil, and on such soils excellent plum crops are produced, the roots of the trees reaching down into the heavier ground beneath, thus affording excellent conditions. In Mr. Woodward's opinion the ideal soil for the plum is rather heavy, with a good proportion of clay, and not too wet. Thomas and

vises applications of potash and ground bone to increase the fruitfulness of the plum tree.

SOURCES OF TREE NOURISHMENT.

WE too little consider the great importance of the foliage in tree growth. The great bulk of the carbon which enters into the woody structure of the plant is taken in directly through its leaves. What the stomach and lungs are to animals, those delicate complex organs, the leaves, are to the trees. They, however, act the reverse of the process of animal breathing, for they purify the air for us, taking from it the carbonic acid gas, and restoring its oxygen, under the wonderful influence of the sunshine.

Mr. Woodward emphasized this point, showing the importance of using insecticides and fungicides in order to keep the foliage healthy and intact, so that it might fully perform its natural functions. In speaking of the mineral elements taken up from the soil, he explained how necessary it was that they should be available, for, as he expressed it, "all plants and trees are soap eaters," and must have their food in a soluble form.

BIG PLUMS PAY.

SLOWLY but surely we are learning the lesson that it does not pay to grow small second class fruit of any kind. We are losers in two ways by it, (1) in the low price received for the second class article, and (2) in the exhaustion of our trees and our soil. This last point is seldom considered, but it is true that it requires more nourishment from the soil and is more exhaustive to the vitality of a tree to produce a basket of small sized plums or peaches than a basket of large sized ones, and the reason is that it is the seed that takes the strength of the tree and not the flesh.

Mr. Woodward put this very strongly at the Stoney Creek meeting. "What I want