LAYING OUT ORCHARDS.

We have often observed a good deal of inconvenience and perplexity in measuring off and laying out orchards, from a want of accuracy at the commencement. If the rows are begun crooked, stake after stake may be altered, without being able to form straight lines and with only an increase of the confusion. If the first tree, in a row of fifty, be placed only six inches out of the way, and be followed as a guide for the rest, the last one will deviate fifty times six inches, or twenty-five feet from a right line, even if the first error is not repeated. We have seen large apple orchards with rows nearly as crooked as this. To say nothing of the deformed appearance to the eye, they proved exceedingly inconvenient every time the crooked space between the rows was plowed, and every time the ground was planted and cultivated with crops in rows.

\boldsymbol{a}	b	c	d	ϵ	$f_{\stackrel{*}{st}}$	$_{st}^{g}$	h	i
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
¥	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
a	b.	\boldsymbol{c}	đ	e	†	a	ħ	i

Fig. 1—Common or Square Arrangement.

The most simple and convenient arrangement for orchards in all ordinary eases, is in squares, as shown in Fig. 1. But planters are often puzzled to know how to lay out such orchards with trees at equal distances throughout, and in perfectly straight rows. The easiest and most successful mode is first to measure off one side along the boundary, with a chain or tape-line (a chain is best,) and drive in a stake perpendicularly at equal distances, (say two rods or 33 feet,) in a straight line, and at a proper distance from the fence for the first row of trees. Then measure off each end in the same way; and between the two last stakes in these end rows, form another line of stakes like the first, which will be parallel and opposite to it. The more accurately the measuring is done, the less labor will be required in rectifying small errors—no stake should stand half an inch out of a straight line. These rows are represented by the letters a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i. Then measure off the distance between a and a, driving in a small stake or peg at each distance of two rods; and then in the same way between b b, c c, &. If accurately done, these will all form perfectly straight rows. The holes may then be dug without the least difficulty or embarrassment, and the trees dug out. But a difficulty arises,—as the stakes must be removed in digging the holes; this is at once obviated by the plan here proposed by placing the tree in a line with the row of stakes or an arise the tree in a line with the row of stakes or are also and arise the contract of the same and a small stake or peg at each distance. by placing the tree in a line with the row of stakes on one side, and with the newly set trees on the other, as the holes are successively dug, and the trees set.

These directions may seem quite simple, but for want of being generally understood,

great many crooked lines of trees are seen through the country.

The second mode of arranging trees is in the old quincunx form (fig. 2) which is nothing more than a series of squares laid off diagonally, and has no special advantage to recommend it except novelty.



Fig. 2—Old Quincunx Order.

The hexagonal or modern quincunx, (fig. 3) possesses two important advantages is its more picturesque appearance, and its consequent fitness for proximity to ornamental plantations; and the other is its greater ecolomy of space, as the trees are more