

a dozen apple trees, which were delivered to him in good order by myself. After keeping them "heeled in" all winter he planted them out early in the spring as recommended. A day or two after a severe storm of sleet set in from the south-west, followed by a keen frost. Every one of those trees lived, but from the start they presented a very unhealthy appearance. On examining them in the month of August following. I found on the south-west side on many of them what I supposed to be frost bites. The bark in spots had become quite dry and hard, and sunken away from the living part of the tree. These spots are now nearly or quite overgrown but they will ever remain diseased spots in the trunks of the trees, affecting them to a greater or less extent throughout their whole system. In my own personal experience I have planted, during the past six years, fourteen plum and pear trees received in the fall, of that number two only are living. During the same time I have planted thirty-three received in the spring, out of which only four have died, and I was strongly suspicious that these four were fall dug when they came to hand. As a class, I have a special regard for nurserymen, and the business in which they are engaged has always had a peculiar attraction for me; yet I have still to meet the nurseryman who can instruct nature in her methods, or improve upon them, and the tree left undisturbed in the soil in the fall, prepared by nature in her own way for the approaching winter, and dug up in the spring for transplanting, is, all things considered, the most profitable tree to purchase, and the only safe tree to have anything to do with.

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T. H. RACE.

PEAR LEAF BLIGHT.

SIR,—Why do the leaves of the pear tree turn black at this season of the year, and drop off? Is it part of the pear blight?—H. WILSON PALMER, *Frankford, Pa.*

AS it appears that this difficulty is very widespread, appearing not only in the vicinity of Philadelphia, but also in Illinois, New Jersey and Ontario, it deserves more than a passing notice. The damage caused has often been very considerable, as trees badly affected become almost wholly defoliated, and this interferes with the growth of the new wood, and consequently with the maturity of the fruit.

Its presence may be first noticed by the appearance of small, dull, carmine red spots early in spring, and which turn to a dark brown color and then drop off. Even the fruit is itself often attacked, showing first spots which are carmine red, and afterwards become dark colored; the skin then takes on a rough surface and often cracks deeply.

The fungus is known as *Entomosporium maculatum*, and is much the same as that which attacks the quince. Probably it is also related to the one which has played such havoc with our apple orchards this year, though