

of the world that not a few of our public men seem to be slow to recognise.

This season there has been an unusually large crop of "gigantic" squashes, turnips, potatoes, &c., in the newspapers. But the most remarkable departure we have seen or heard of from the ordinary phenomena of nature, occurred in Mr. Troplet's garden, in Halifax, where a Duchesse d'Angouleme Pear tree bore two distinct crops of pears during the past season. The first crop was formed at the usual time, after which, the tree blossomed again on the same shoots and set another crop of fruit, which acquired considerable size before the cold weather came on. If we can raise two crops in a season of one of the finest and most delicate of all the French Pears, our climate cannot be so very bad after all. Parched California may ripen these pears a little earlier, but it will be something new under the sun for the Golden State to raise more than two crops in a season.

A correspondent of the *Colonial Farmer* reports a neighbour's big turnip as weighing, when cleaned and ready for cooking, 17½ lbs.; also "four well formed heads of cabbage growing on one stalk, and several with three heads on one stalk; he has, moreover, a goose a year and a half old that has just laid five eggs." It is true that, as a rule, two heads are better than one, even if they be sheepheads, but one head is enough for a good cabbage, and as for the goose, she must be a great goose as well as a young one to try to hatch out goslings on the winter pastures.

HINTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

(From the *Gardener's Monthly*.)

THE FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

It is now so well understood that we may have an immense addition to our list of hardy evergreens if we will only shelter them, that we expect all those who love these varied winter favorites will take measures this season to plant shelter belts in exposed places, or else to set the common hardy trees, like Norway and Hemlock Spruce, and Scotch, Austrian and White Fines thickly about, so that the rarer ones can be put between them.

Almost all young trees are tenderer than they are when older. It is therefore no test of the hardness of some rare thing, that a small plant is killed in the

winter. Silver Firs almost always get killed back for a few years in this section unless protected, but yet gain a little in strength. After they are ten years old they will endure our hardest weather. So Spanish Chestnuts, English Walnuts, and many others, will die back considerably, until they get strength. Therefore, protect any valued young plant, if possible, no matter how hardy its reputation may be.

Every one who has dug up a potato knows that when the tuber has finished its growth, all between it and the parent stalk dies. If the potato were to remain undisturbed till spring, frost and other things of course uninjuring it, it would push up from the place where it stood, and a new set of potatoes push out, and the space between them and the original, get wider every year. So, year after year, there would be this continual progression,—a wandering away from the first centre, until in time the living plant might be a mile away from the original spot which gave it birth. Something of this kind goes on in all herbaceous plants,—a part progresses, and a part dies every year. It is for the want of this knowledge that so many friends lose these plants. Though all herbaceous plants move in some such manner, they do not all go directly under ground, but make bunchy stocks above ground. In their native places of growth they manage to get covered with decaying leaves from the woods or shifting sands on the plains, but in cultivation nothing of this kind can be naturally accomplished, and unless art comes to aid the plants they soon die away. An Auricula, a Primrose, or a Carnation, is a good illustration of this. In the two former a new crown is formed on the top of the old one, and as the lower part in time dies away, unless new earth is drawn up success with such flowers will not be great. The best plan is to take up and replant every few years, or cover the running parts above ground with earth, so that they may have a chance to get new roots from the advancing stocks. This is noticed here at this season to show that earth is the natural covering for herbaceous plants, and therefore one of the surest ways of preserving them safe through winter is to draw earth over them. In the spring they can be unearthed and then divided and set a trifle deeper than before, which is all they want. We are often asked how to preserve Carnations, Chrysanthemums, Pansies, Phloxes, Hollyhocks, and so forth, safe till spring. The principles here laid down will explain the practice.

Pampas Grass, *Tritoma varia* and other half hardy things do much better when left out all winter and protected. The best protection is a dry-goods box filled with leaves. Many plants might

be saved in this way, and the increased beauty of the plants would pay well for the trouble. These ugly boxes may be objectionable, but probably the time may come when it will be thought worth while to have neat cases made expressly for them.

As soon as the ground gets caked with the first real frost, herbaceous plants should be protected. Though hardy, they will repay this extra care,—mostly natives of woods or grassy places in their native state, they expect a covering of leaves or dry grass. We find dry leaves the best material for the purpose, a few inches is a sufficient depth,—a little soil being thrown on to prevent the leaves blowing away. Where such material is not at hand, the common garden soil may be drawn over them, as before recommended.

The planting of trees will continue to engage our attention at every favorable opportunity. Many prefer at this season to remove trees in the winter by the "frozen ball" system. There is nothing gained by this practice. To those unacquainted with this mode of planting, we may as well describe it. Just before frost is expected, a trench is dug around a tree a few feet from its base, leaving the tree so, that with a rope at the top, it can be easily drawn over. A hole is then dug for it in the situation desired. When the "ball" has become frozen through around the tree, it is removed to the prepared hole; and, when a thaw comes, the soil filled in around it. We have said there is nothing gained by it, and there are many disadvantages. If the tree has been removed a "time or two" before, as most nursery trees have, it will have an abundance of fibres near the stem, and can be successfully removed without much regard to the "ball of earth," either in fall or spring. If it has never been removed before, that is a tree growing naturally, it will have no fibres at its base, and so no "ball of earth" can preserve them; so that a tree which can be moved successfully on this freezing system, can be as successfully done without it. The disadvantages of it are that it exposes the injured roots for a long time to the injurious action of the frost and the elements, besides the frequency of the operation being improperly done by several attempts being made at its completion. We have given the system a fair trial, and have done with it. The main object should be to preserve all the roots possible with the tree, keep them moist and preserve from injury, then go ahead and don't wait for frost.

FRUIT GARDEN.

Passing a fruit stand in Philadelphia this 6th day of October, 1871, we ask the price of some tolerably fair Duchesse d'Angouleme Pears, and are told that