

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.**WOMEN IN THE GARDEN.**

Much in these days is said about the sphere of women. Of the vexed question we have nothing new to say. The culture of the soil, the body and the soul, are our themes. Rich soils, healthy bodies, pure, cultivated souls, these are what we are aiming at. And to this end we recommend that every country woman have a garden that she keep and dress with her own hands, or that she supervise and manage. The culture of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants and garden vegetables, is as delightful and profitable as anything in which a woman can engage. She may sprinkle her garden well with flowers. All the better for that. A snowball in this corner, a rose in that, a dahlia bed there and a moss border here, will not be out of place. Only let the substantial and useful constitute the chief part. A touch of the ornate, like a ribbon on a new bonnet, is not in the least objectionable. In all the schools the girls study botany. It is healthful, pleasing and useful. The principles of horticulture are the principles of botany put into practice. Farmers study agriculture, why should not their wives and daughters study horticulture? If any employment is feminine, it would seem that this is. If any is healthy, this must be. If any be pleasurable, none can be more so than this. A rich bed of strawberries, a bush of blackberries or currants, a border of flowers produced by one's own hand,—what can well afford more rational satisfaction? We say to all our country sisters, have a garden, if only a small one, and do your best with it. Plant it with whatever pleases you best, with a good variety, and see what you can do with it. What woman cannot raise beets, tomatoes, melons, onions, lettuce, and furnish her own table with them? What woman cannot plant a raspberry bush, or currant, or gooseberry, and tend it well? Come, good woman, study your health, your usefulness and happiness, and your children also.

HOW TO RAISE PEACHES.

The Secretary of the Washtenaw County (Mich.) Pomological Society, in a paper on the Cultivation of Fruit Trees, gives the following in relation to the peach: The fruit requires two different systems of culture,—that is, the bearing trees must be differently treated from those that are too young for bearing. It is the nature of the young peach tree to keep on growing late in the fall. This must not be permitted. It can be prevented by stopping to stir the soil in mid-summer. The rest of the season is required to harden up the young wood for winter. To properly control the growth, skill and experience are required. In the month of August cultivating for the young peach tree should stop. Should the ground be very rich and the trees show a determination to keep on growing, the leading branches may be pinched in. After pinching a new growth will often start; but then we must pinch again. Ripening up thoroughly the new growth of the young tree should be the aim of the peach grower. Where the soil is poor, less care is required in ripening the new wood. The bearing peach tree cannot be cultivated too often. The soil must at all times be kept loose. Cultivation can be kept up until the fruit is ripe. The new growth of wood in a bearing tree ceases to grow early in the season, and there is no danger of stimulating a late growth, for the fruit consumes all the extra sap caused by cultivation. Stirring the soil should be thoroughly kept up, so that any time between the setting of the fruit and its being picked, you can run your hand right

into the soil and fill it with loose earth. But in order to grow large peaches, and all of a large, uniform style, the tree must have either its bearing branches shortened in or the fruit must be thinned out. Shortening in is probably the least expensive operation of the two. As long as you ship more than one-tenth of second or medium-sized peaches you are not master of your occupation. I have grown the Early Crawford so as to run from two to three and a half inches in diameter, and after all were picked there were no more than one-twentieth below the size.

THE PIG AS A FLORIST.

We clip the following paragraph from a late issue of Bell's *Messenger*, London: A well-known American writer on live stock, Mr. Joseph Harris, has just issued his annual catalogue of Berkshire [Essex] pigs, and in his preface gives what all must admit to be a very original test for purity of breed. He tells that "a large well-filled bed of choice annual flowers is the delight and admiration of all beholders. Even an Essex pig, should he find his way accidentally into the garden, must lack that refinement for which the breed is so pre-eminently distinguished, if he does not, while cracking the cherry stones under the trees, stop to admire a beautiful bed of phlox, verbenas, petunias. Should he disturb them, there would be just grounds for distrusting the purity of his breeding. The roughest man in a village must feel the refining influence of a beautiful flower garden." Paddy's "gentleman" evidently has a great admirer in Mr. Joseph Harris, but what would the gardener say, after two or three pigs had proved their breed to be doubtful?

SEED AND QUALITY.

Dr. E. I. Sturtevant says: "In 1879 I was strongly impressed with the apparent relation between the abundance of seed and the quality of the fruit in the case of the Christiana melon. Of the crop of this year I tasted many hundred melons, keeping the seed only of those which were of very superior flavour and quality. Where the quality was very superior, the quantity of seed was small; where the quality was not up to standard, the seeds were in greater abundance; where the quality was very inferior, the seeds were very numerous. I have not as yet collected sufficient material for the thorough discussion of the relation between quality and seeding, but such observations as I have thus far obtained seem to indicate that such a relation exists; and as our fruits and vegetables gain in certain respects, this gain is counterbalanced by a loss elsewhere.

FEEDING PEAR TREES.

In an address at a pomological meeting at Rochester, Mr. Barry said that he had in the corner of his grounds a little group of half a dozen pear trees standing in grass. They had been neglected until they were nearly starved to death. The annual growth was nothing, the leaves small, and no fruit. In this condition they were treated with a top dressing of barnyard manure, and the following season they made stout shoots twelve to eighteen inches long, with large, dark green foliage, and some fine fruit. He added that trees standing in grass would not pay. They must be kept vigorous and healthy by tillage, fertilizers and judicious pruning. These involve labour and expense, but, he remarked, we cannot grow fruit without them. In his pear garden he slackened both cultivation and manure to lessen the chances of blight, but the result was that in two years and a half his crops were culls.

NUTS.

F. D. Curtiss, of Kirby Homestead, reports in the *New York Tribune* that a filbert bush produced this year four quarts of nuts as large as any of the imported ones. He adds: "They are the round variety, and are perfectly hardy." Since these are described as round, they are probably hazel nuts, which grow wild in England, and gathering which is the well-known sport called "going a-nutting." The filbert proper is not round, but long, and contains a large and richer kernel than the hazel nut. There seems to be no good reason why both varieties should not be grown in this country. Mr. Curtiss' bushes were raised from nuts bought at a New York fruit stand, and said to be imported from England.

THE CUTHBERT RASPBERRY.

Mr. P. T. Quinn, a noted horticulturist, writes rather disparagingly of this new and much-praised raspberry in the *Philadelphia Press*. He says it is too soft to bear transportation, even short distances, to market. His observations were made day by day through the past season on Cuthberts raised two miles from Newark, N. J., and sold by dealers in that city, and he reports that, even under these favourable circumstances, "the berries do not stand up," and when left over from afternoon till next morning, "settled from a quarter to a third" in the pint or half-pint baskets. And whereas he contemplated setting a couple of acres to this variety, he now regrets that he has any of the plants outside of his experimental bed.

COVERING STRAWBERRIES.

Often there is much said, and especially at this season of the year, about covering strawberries; and many persons are induced by what they read to act so as to heartily regret it when the spring comes round. We have known people to act on this suggestion, and cover their strawberry beds with manure, and find the whole completely rotten in the spring. And yet a little covering with the right kind of material is not a bad thing. If the plants are entirely unprotected the leaves are browned and often destroyed; while it must have been noted by every observant gardener that the best fruit comes from plants that have managed to keep their leaves bright and green till their spring flowers appear. And this is why a covering of snow the whole winter is so good for the strawberry crop. As we have remarked, when the leaves are browned the crop is small; but when the snow covers the plants all the winter long, they come out in the spring in the best possible condition.

But we cannot always depend on the snow. It does not always come, or continue in a regular way. So if some light material can be put over the plants, that will not smother and rot them, and yet will be just enough to make a shade from the winter sun and a screen from frosty winds, it will be doing a good turn to the strawberry plant. Manure is bad. There is salt in it, especially when fresh, which is destructive to foliage; but clean straw, or swamp or marsh hay that is free from weeds, answers the purpose very well. But it must not be put on very thick. The idea is, just enough to make a thin screen, and yet not enough to hold the moisture long. Shade without damp is the idea. Such light protection is good for the strawberry plant.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

Cows command good prices all over the country, and this condition in the stock market will continue for years yet to come.