

4187

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## THE SECKEL PEAR

OUR frontispiece is an excellent representation of the Seckel pear, a variety that is everywhere acknowledged to be the very finest dessert pear in cultivation. This pear originated on the farm of a Mr. Seckel, of Philadelphia, near the Delaware River. No one seems to know anything about the origin of the original tree, which bore its first fruit about the year 1765. In 1819 a tree of this pear was planted in the garden of the London Horticultural Society, and the fruit was pronounced "to exceed in flavor the richest of their autumn pears."

For years we have grown this pear at Maplehurst, both as a standard and as a dwarf, and must pronounce in favor of the latter for beauty and for quality. For the garden of the amateur who wants the finest quality of pear for his table, or for the connoisseur who wants to complete an interesting collection, we know no pear so desirable; indeed it should find a place in every fruit garden which is planted for home uses; but we do not consider it advisable to plant it largely in the commercial orchard on account of its small size. True, very high prices have been secured for the Seckel pear in special markets where it is well known, but, as a rule, the buyer of a fruit looks for size as well as for beauty

and quality, and the commercial grower must not expect ready sale for small sized pears or small sized apples.

The tree is readily distinguished from other trees in our experimental grounds by the olive brown color of the wood, its short stout joints, and the compact, symmetrical head. The fruit itself has a deep, yellowish brown color, with a bright red cheek; the flesh is very fine grained, melting and juicy; the flesh is honey sweet, with a spicy and delicate aroma; season September to October.

### OPINIONS OF OTHERS ON THE VALUE OF SECKEL.

MR. T. H. RACE (Mitchell):—By its very nature the Seckel pear is a dwarf. It may be a paradox to say that, so far as size goes, it is less a dwarf when grown on a dwarf tree than when grown upon a standard. As a standard the tree is inclined to load too heavily and the fruit to run too small, the tree itself grows too thick and close if left to itself, and the wood is too brittle to stand much, or any trimming. A dwarf tree, if inclined to over-load, can easily be thinned, and a good sized fruit may always be obtained. It is not so easy thinning a standard, and if the tree is cut out to lessen