

deleterious effects of marshy exhalations. M. Martin states that it is a proved fact, that the sunflower possesses the power of freeing the atmosphere from those germs, animal and vegetable, which are supposed to constitute the miasms that are productive of fever and ague.

If this be the case, is it not well for our fever and ague afflicted sections to be made aware of it? Much suffering might thus be avoided, and a new impetus given to immigration to those long neglected and fertile spots in the West and South, that have been pregnant with miasma.

Hitherto the culture of the sunflower has been quite limited in this country. Experiments serve to show that it is a valuable feed for poultry. It also yields a large return in oil. An Ohio farmer, several years since, averred that it would give more bushels of seed year by year, than corn on the same surface. Admitting his statement to be true, we may, from tables I find in an old encyclopedia, estimate the returns in oil that an acre will produce, planted after the manner the work indicates. One hundred plants are allowed to produce one bushel of seed, from which three quarts of oil are obtained. This would give us about forty gallons to the acre, and leave us the refuse for feed, the value of which is not given. May not this refuse be as valuable as cotton seed meal?

My impression is, that the plants might, without detriment, be increased one hundred per cent. on an acre over and above the number stated, and the profits increased in the same ratio. The present facilities for extracting the oil over those in use fifty years ago, will also give us a much larger return than three quarts to the bushel.

But to return to the medicinal question, which is after all one of the greatest moment to us. The plant is easily propagated, and its seed can be mingled with the seed corn and planted at the same time, all over our extended country, resulting, it may be, in untold good to present and coming generations.—*Cor. New England Farmer.*

### CRACKING OF THE PEAR.

It may be a long time before we know all the influences affecting this disease. The past season which has been so wet in Western New York, and as commonly supposed, favorable to the increase of the fungus which causes cracking, has given some remarkable results. The Seckels have been badly affected, and on some trees nearly all the specimens are small, black and scabby. The Flemish Beauty, which has so often been spoiled of late years by cracking, was large, uninjured, and covered with that rich russet which accompanies a high flavor. The White Doyenne appears to be hopelessly diseased, as no indications are seen of any improvement of late years, a few fair specimens only to be found on the best trees. The Gray Doyenne, on the contrary, is mostly fine and fair.—*Country Gentleman.*

### THE BLACKBERRY.

In an essay on "The Culture of Small Fruits" read by Capt. John Moore at a recent meeting of the Concord, Mass., Farmer's Club, the writer stated that "the high bush blackberry when grown in perfection, and well ripened, is one of our finest small fruits. This fruit was not cultivated until about the year 1840. The Dorchester was the

first variety cultivated to any extent, and was brought into notice by the late Capt. Lovett, of Beverly. This variety was soon followed by the Lawton, or New Rochelle, Newman's Thornless, and some others, and still later by the Kittatinny, Wilson's Early, and other kinds. Both of the last named varieties are thought to be more hardy, and to produce larger fruit than the Dorchester, but probably of no better quality."

"The high blackberry is liable to have its canes killed in our severe Winters, unless covered. The canes are stiff and brittle, some varieties more brittle than others, and are difficult to lay down and cover with earth without breaking them more or less. The riper the wood of any plant in the Autumn, the more successfully it can withstand the cold of winter; therefore, it would be better to select a soil that is high, dry, and warm, where the canes will ripen thoroughly, and not allow them to be stimulated with high manuring to make a large and late growth.

"Many persons fail to produce satisfactory crops of fruit from planting varieties not naturally productive, or not adapted to their particular soil; for that reason it becomes very important to select the right kinds.

"We want a variety that will grow well, be productive, of large size and regular form; of a bright handsome color, of good quality, and firm enough to bear transportation without injury. It will be impossible to get all these qualities in one fruit, therefore, get as near to it as you can; but at any rate, if you are growing for market, see that you have a variety that is productive and marketable."

### THE CURCULIO.

We take the following from the latest article we have seen on the curculio, the subject of such frequent consideration of late. It is from Vineland, N. J.:

The great pest of the fruit-grower, the curculio, is much more manageable than is generally supposed. Few things are necessary for his subjugation. First, an utter abandonment of the idea that any quack nostrums applied to the trees, or to the earth under them, will avail anything; and second, that regular, continued effort from the time the fruit attains the size of a hazelnut until the insects disappear in July, is the one thing needful.

Little need be said as to the mode of procedure. It is simply the jarring process so often explained. A sheet of coarse, strong muslin, large enough to cover all the ground under the tree is first prepared. One end of this sheet is fastened to a stick, so as to be carried readily; while at the other end are two sticks with a slit running from where these ends meet for the first half of the length of the sheet, so that it can be passed about the trunk of the tree. Two persons are required for profitably working the apparatus, and in some cases three are better. The chief operator, who is to do the jarring, should be one who can be trusted not to injure the trees; but the others may be quite small children, as a few minutes' instruction will enable them to detect curculio as readily as a cat will a mouse. It is a jar, not a shake, which brings down the insect nuisance; and this can be applied in any way which will not injure the tree. The palm of the hand will