

FRUIT HOUSES AND FRUIT ROOMS.



UCH houses may be constructed at moderate expense, which, with properly selected varieties, will afford fruit through nearly the whole year, if the circle is completed by early cherries and early strawberries. It is not necessary to employ ice for maintaining a low temperature in hot weather, such houses being adapted to large establishments and requiring constant care and much skill in their management. For the smaller and cheaper structure the essential requisites are non-conducting walls and ventilating windows, provision being made for the admission of cool air on cool nights, to maintain a temperature slightly above freezing, and thus preventing decay during warm seasons. With such a provision we have found no difficulty in keeping such apples as the Baldwin and Newton Pippin, through winter and into the middle of June, and such winter pears as Nelis, Lawrence and Malines into February and March. A common practice is to erect a frame of six-inch studs, and cover both sides of these with boards, filling the space between the boards with sawdust; but a better way is to nail on the building-paper studs before the boards are applied, the studs being placed just far enough apart to give a slight lap to the paper as the rolls are successively applied. The sawdust is omitted, as it is liable to cause crevices by setting, and to be attacked by rats and mice. If this air space and the two covers with boards and building-paper are not sufficient to make a good non-conducting wall, nail vertical strips on each lath and add another covering of paper and another boarding. The roof is to be made non-conducting in a similar way, and the room is to be protected with double doors and double windows. The natural heat from the earth floor, with these protecting walls, will prevent the room from freezing. Fig. 393 in illustration represents the cross-section of a fruit-room, showing the ventilation. The dotted lines and arrows show the entrance of the cold air at a side window, and

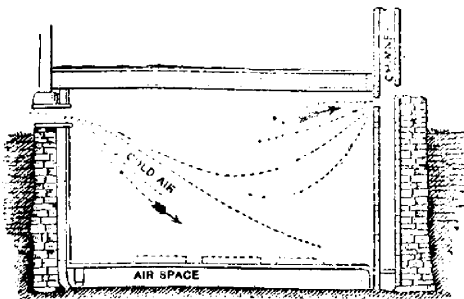


FIG. 393.

FRUIT HOUSE AND FRUIT ROOM.

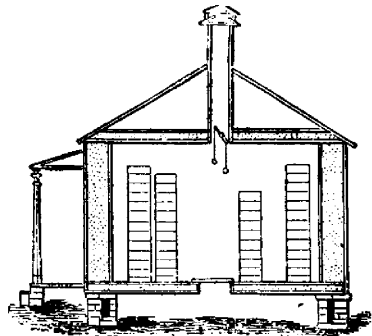


FIG. 394.