

farmer in Canada can, in justice to himself, afford to neglect taking in and reading THE CANADA FARMER! The information here given is no where else to be found. It is now the medium of communication between enquiring minds on every matter pertaining to the soil and rural affairs, in all parts of these Provinces. For my own part I can not only not afford to forgo the perusal of our own paper, but must, at yet further expense, likewise consult the journals devoted to kindred topics, not only in the neighbouring United States, but in Great Britain. No man can work but at a disadvantage without proper tools, much less without aids, methods, or helps of every kind. A thousand subscribers, I do not hesitate to say, is a matter of much less importance to the publisher than the disadvantage, the positive loss, to a man cultivating even a single acre of land—who, most mistakenly, thinks he saves a dollar a year—in refusing to subscribe to, and read, THE FARMER. What then is to be thought of a man farming 100 acres who affirms he "can't afford" to do so? I think the boot is altogether on the other leg:—"penny wisdom, and pound folly,"—hand and hand.

2.—COOKERY, "WASTE NOT, WANT NOT."

I have often thought of the national and individual loss entailed by bad cookery. I saw it stated the other day in an American paper, that a certain Frenchman was about opening an establishment in New York, in which he proposed to teach the art of cookery. All success to Monsieur 'Cookery or the preparation of food is one of the most important and useful arts of life. Yet it is one which a very large proportion of our women are least versed in. The loss nationally and individually is beyond computation. Teachers, books, some labour, and some study, are all considered indispensable in the much less useful, but more fashionable accomplishments of crochet work, and bad music on the piano; but the preparation of food forsooth, may be learnt without aid, without study, without tuition of any kind! what but failure and disappointment can be expected? Let, therefore, every thinker do what he or she can, to bring about a better state of things. Why should not cookery and household management, become regular branches in our systems of national education for young women of all classes and positions in society? The French have always, nationally and individually been far ahead of Britain, in their knowledge and practice of cookery. It is to be hoped the worthy man about commencing operations in New York, will be abundantly successful, and soon have many imitators. There is plenty of room for profitable operations in the same line, over the length and breadth of nearly every civilized country in the wide world. I hope to live to see the day, when "high honours" at the academy of household management, and household duties, will be considered indispensable "accomplishments"—before a young lady can obtain a matrimonial settlement for life.

3.—SHELTER.

The benefits of shelter to growing crops of every kind, in this northern climate, are so palpable, that this is one of the first things anybody now thinks of, who proposes laying out a garden planting an orchard, or a vineyard. Nobody who has devoted any attention in this direction but will admit the importance of shelter, as a feature indispensable to success. I think it would be an admirable plan for every owner of land, whether of large or small extent, to plant around his lot a belt of timber from 12 to 72 feet wide, of good healthy sorts of forest trees. There might be part deciduous and part evergreens—beeches, maples, pine spruces, balsams, ashes, oaks, and so forth. There would thus, in a few years, be abundant shelter, and the timber, before twenty years, would become at once useful and valuable in a money point of view. Every garden, orchard, and vineyard, for we shall in a few years have grape vineyards, should be surrounded in like manner with a high live fence, sufficient at once as a protective fence and a wind break. It is now a vexed question what forms the best plant for a fence. Some advocate the English hawthorn, others the buckthorn, the arbutus, the Norway spruce, the privet, the osage orange, and, more recently, the white willow has its supporters. I should like to find out in which of all these the roots would give the least trouble, for that is an important consideration. It is well known that poplars and willows generally extend every where, and impoverish the soil for a considerable distance around. Which, then, of all these, or of what others, do the least mischief in this way? If any parties have noted this, the information will be at once acceptable and useful.



Grape Vine Culture, No. V.

BY W. S., OF WOODBURY.

SYSTEMS—CONTINUED.

Another "system," much in use on the Hudson, is indicated by Fig. 23. The posts are set at any dis-

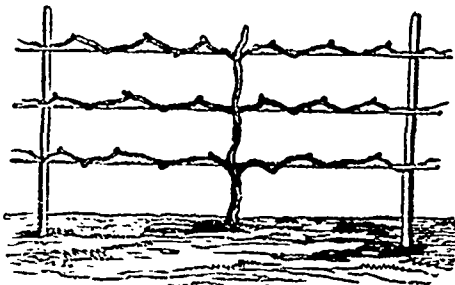


FIG. 23.

tance not less than sixteen feet apart. A wire is stretched from one to two feet from the ground, forming the lower or bottom wire, another at the top of the posts, and a third midway between. The vines are grown straight and upright, being first cut back until a strong cane is produced. Arms are then taken as they are grown, three on each side, making an arm for each wire, on each side of the vine. These arms are renewed from time to time as required, by cutting out the old ones, and leading a new shoot in their places. The fruit is produced from the wood springing from the eyes on the arms; the bearing wood being the present year's growth. This system we consider defective, but it is easy to bring a vine into this shape, and this is its chief recommendation.

Another system, indicated by Fig. 24, is much

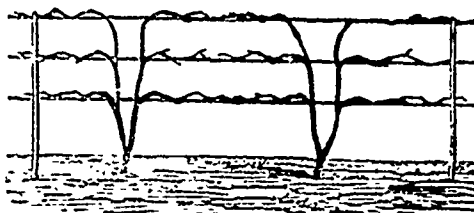


FIG. 24.

practised in the extensive vineyard of Dr. Underhill, growing principally Isabella and Catawba vines, at Croton-Point, on the Hudson. Our engraving precludes the necessity of further explanation.

Another system in use for covering arbours, is, perhaps, among the best that can be devised for that purpose, being a kind of spur and renewal system, and consists in forming regular horizontal arms on the bottom bar or rail of the arbour, a short distance from the ground; then training canes from the eyes on these arms, at regular distances up over the arbour, about twelve inches apart as far as desired. When these canes require renewing, which will be in two or three years, a cane must be cut out, down by the arm, and a new one trained up in its place, and by care and attention will produce abundant crops in this way.

THE OHIO SYSTEM

Is merely a modification of the methods pursued in France and Germany, and has been gradually introduced by vine dressers emigrating from those countries. Vines, and even vineyards, may be found around Cincinnati, trained differently, but the method is known as the Ohio system. The ground having been prepared, the vineyard is set out with cuttings

or rooted plants; generally the former. In setting the cuttings, holes about two feet deep are made, with a dibble shod with iron; two cuttings are inserted in each, filled in with sand, and washed into immediate contact by pouring in water. During the first season, the young vines are allowed to grow at random, care only being taken that the ground be kept clean, mellow, and clear, of weeds. In the spring of the second year, the vines are pruned back, and also all the roots which spring from the cutting within several inches of the surface lopped off. The second season the vines are treated nearly the same. The third summer, three or four are allowed to grow up, and are carefully tied to as many stakes, the laterals being pinched out, and the shoots stopped in September. During the fourth year, the vines are allowed to bear spurs, all produced by cutting back

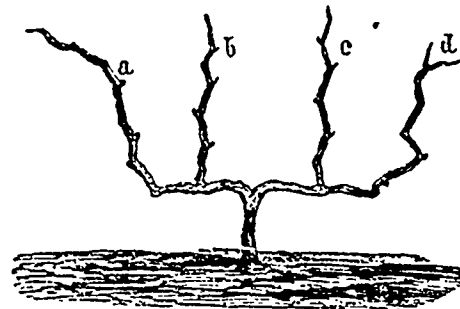


FIG. 25.

the shoots of the previous season to six or eight inches. Those spurs of course, throw out fruit-bearing canes, which, during the fifth season, are tied in bows to stakes. At the winter pruning, the bows are cut away, their place being filled the next season by a fresh cane, allowed to grow for this purpose, the previous year. Fig. 25 shows the vine in the fall of the fourth year. a b c d are the vines which bore fruit last year; b and c are cut off to one good bud, and a and d formed into bows, and tied to a stake, as shown in Fig. 26. This is the appearance of the vine

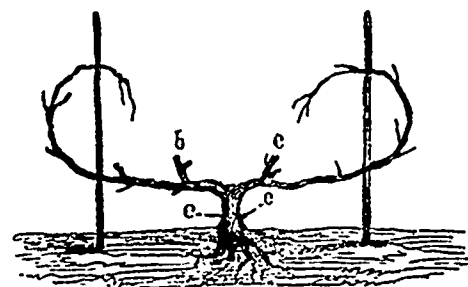


FIG. 26.

the fifth spring. The arms are wholly renewed every few years, so as to get rid of the unsightly gnarled spurs by training new shoots from the spurs c e.

THE THOMAS SYSTEM.

This is the celebrated system in use near Paris, in France. Where a very high wall is to be covered, it may be raised indefinitely to any height. Fig. 27

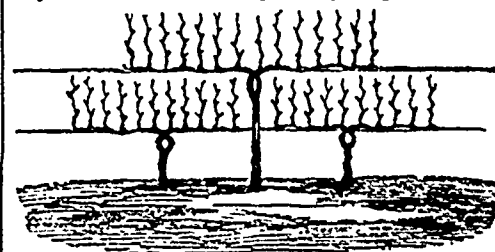


FIG. 27.

gives a good idea of what is meant by this system. It is much recommended by Dr. Grant, the celebrated grape grower, of Iona Island, on the Hudson, and is admirably adapted for a climate where the vines do not require to be laid down for winter protection.

CARE OF OLD VINES.

Throughout many parts of the country there are numerous old vines of considerable growth, many of