

preparation has been made to resist the winter's cold. The tree is sent out in this condition ; it is buried in the earth beneath the frost for the winter ; it absorbs from the soil all the moisture that it can contain, and if, at the first approach of spring, it is taken out of its winter bed in this state and exposed to the cold piercing winds and keen night frosts it is going to have a severe struggle for life. To subject a young tree to this treatment is like taking a child right from the bath tub, and, whilst the pores of the system are all open, exposing it to a cold and chilling atmosphere. The child could not stand such treatment without receiving a shock to its system ; no more can the young tree. If it be a pear or an apricot tree it will almost certainly die ; if a plum it may live ; if an apple tree it will most likely live, but it will show evidences of its harsh treatment through life, in what is known as black heart or other kindred defects.

On the other hand, if the tree be allowed to lie in its winter bed till the season is well advanced and the days become warm and sunny, its fate will be none the less precarious. Before being taken out the buds will have formed and swelled, ready to bursting open ; planted out in the warm sunshine they will immediately burst forth, and in less than two weeks you may have a growth of over an inch in length. But you will not likely get any more growth that season ; for, having exhausted the vitality in the tree itself with no corresponding growth at the root to sustain a continued top growth, the latter must stop and the tree becomes stunted ; and, in spite of every effort on your part to revive its growth it will remain in that condition throughout the season, and the winter will come upon it before it has sufficiently established itself to withstand the frost and storm, and it will die the following spring. The cause is not far to seek. The tree, as before mentioned, had become flushed with sap from absorption ; when set out in the warm sunshine this absorption was stimulated into abnormal growth, and as there was yet no warmth in the ground to promote a growth at the root, the growth at the top must stop when the abnormal vitality of the trunk is exhausted and there is no preparation made at the root to sustain and continue it. To insure a continued and healthy growth in a tree that growth must first begin at the root. This is nature's method, and any interference at variance with her natural operations is certain to be followed by undesirable results, and any tree that has not established itself by firm root growth during the first season after transplanting, in only an exceptional case will it come safely through the winter to do so the second season.

Apart, then, from any monetary consideration, fall deliveries are, in my opinion, decidedly against the purchasers' interest. The very high percentage of mortality, if I may so term it, among pear and plum trees in the County of Perth, I attribute to fall deliveries, and a large percentage of the unhealthiness in both young and older apple orchards, I attribute to the same cause. For example, four years ago a neighboring farmer purchased