

## THE LAWN.

## The Cutleaf Weeping Birch.

Longer acquaintance with this beautiful tree has only served to deepen the impressions made on first seeing it, and to establish the conviction that it is one of the most charming objects which can be grown on the lawn.

In habit of growth it is very different from the most of those which are designated as weeping or pendulous trees. It rises in a slender, and graceful, but erect form, lifting its head higher and higher, even above the surrounding trees, and throwing out its branches skyward, not earthward. But from these branches it sends forth long, sweeping, pensive sprays, so delicate and full of grace, so airy and lightsome that the eye rests on it with indescribable satisfaction.

Not only in the graceful form and general appearance of the whole tree is it beautiful; but when examined minutely, and in detail, every feature is pleasing. Each leaf is most handsomely cut, each branch has some grace special to itself, and the silver-white bark of the trunk and larger branches light up with peculiar beauty when flecked by the ever-shifting sunlight flashing through the leaves.

## The Oak as a Lawn Tree.

There is no better or more certain method of obtaining a knowledge of things than by experience. Our opinions change in spite of all preconceived notions, and we are surprised at our own weakness in not being able to discern plants which experience has brought into view. The Oaks have long been celebrated for their beauty as well as usefulness, and they are worthy of all the praise bestowed; but their fitness for certain positions in ornamentation of suburban grounds, is a question that will bear discussion. In the present advanced state of Landscape Gardening, the lawn is really the foundation, while the trees, disposed in groups, belts or single specimens, fill up and give variety, expression, and tone to the picture. In grounds of considerable extent, a semi-wildness is not only admissible but desirable, and littering leaves and scattering clumps of wild grasses amid barren rocks or hillocks are not out of place, but in small grounds limited to a few tiny lots, or even an acre or two, the surface of which is smooth and without natural obstructions; cleanliness and neatness should be preserved, instead of making any attempt to produce an appearance of wild ruggedness. To have both combined, or contiguous, is certainly desirable and usually attainable, if one seeks a wild, rugged spot, and then tames a portion artificially; but there are objections to this combination, as I have learned by experience in my own grounds, which are of a mixed nature, for the leaves, nuts, flowers and other cast-off garments of the trees become scattered over lawns and flower-

beds to the disgust of the owner of a well-kept garden. Of course, it depends somewhat upon the kinds of trees adjacent to the garden, as some, like the Chestnut, which are constantly contributing something in the way of litter during the entire summer. First, the long catkins, like huge yellow worms, are scattered over walks, out-buildings, and lawns, followed by more or less early ripening leaves in July and August; then September brings down the prickly husks, which tumble about to the discomfort of feet incased in thin shoes, or the "sit-down" of the lounge in the shade.

A deciduous tree that will drop its leaves all at one time, is far preferable to one that keeps up a con-

tinuous growth in the south of China, Japan, and all over the East Indies. The pith of this palm, from which the Sago is obtained, is a chief means of nourishment for millions in warm climates, and is exported largely from Singapore, where it is manufactured. In our California climate it is both nutritive and easy of digestion. It is much used for puddings, and constitutes an excellent article of diet for invalids. The Oil palm (*Elais Guineensis*) is a native of the western coast of Africa. The oil is obtained from the fruit, which is about the size of an olive, and of a yellow color. The Cocoa-nut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), which grows by the sea-side in most tropical countries, is especially abundant throughout the South Sea Islands. It forms a fine shade. It makes a good thatch, and excellent baskets. The young leaflets make fans and bonnets; also clothing, goblets; likewise fire kindling, fish lines, and cords, a balsam for wounds from the juice of the nut, and oil for embalment of the dead. Posts can be made from the trunk, and charcoal to cook with; paddles for canoes, and clubs and spears for battle. Lastly, we direct attention to the Doum palm of Upper Egypt (*Hyphene Thebaica*). The fruit of this is much larger than the Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), and is equally nutritious. The rind of the fruit is brown and mealy, and has both the taste and color of gingerbread; hence one of its common names is the gingerbread tree. The spongy, internal portion of the fruit of this palm forms an important article of food, and when this pulp is mixed with an infusion of dates, it constitutes a cooling drink, much prescribed by the Arabs in febrile affections as cooling and demulcent.—*Rural Press*.



THE CUTLEAF WEEPING BIRCH.

tinual scattering through the season. There are several species of Oaks which belong to the latter class, and for this reason are well worthy the attention of all villa gardeners.—*Country Gentleman, Eng.*

## Palmeae—Palms.

The number of known species of palms are over a thousand. The most remarkable are the Betelnut palm (*areca catechu*), the fruit of which, divided into quarters, rolled in the pepper leaf, and sprinkled with lime, is in general used as a masticatory amongst the natives of the East Indies, much the same as tobacco is employed by us. This mixture gives a red tinge to the saliva, and seems to have some narcotic power. The Sago palm (*Saguerus Rumphii*)

grows in the south of China, Japan, and all over the East Indies. The pith of this palm, from which the Sago is obtained, is a chief means of nourishment for millions in warm climates, and is exported largely from Singapore, where it is manufactured. In our California climate it is both nutritive and easy of digestion. It is much used for puddings, and constitutes an excellent article of diet for invalids. The Oil palm (*Elais Guineensis*) is a native of the western coast of Africa. The oil is obtained from the fruit, which is about the size of an olive, and of a yellow color. The Cocoa-nut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), which grows by the sea-side in most tropical countries, is especially abundant throughout the South Sea Islands. It forms a fine shade. It makes a good thatch, and excellent baskets. The young leaflets make fans and bonnets; also clothing, goblets; likewise fire kindling, fish lines, and cords, a balsam for wounds from the juice of the nut, and oil for embalment of the dead. Posts can be made from the trunk, and charcoal to cook with; paddles for canoes, and clubs and spears for battle. Lastly, we direct attention to the Doum palm of Upper Egypt (*Hyphene Thebaica*). The fruit of this is much larger than the Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), and is equally nutritious. The rind of the fruit is brown and mealy, and has both the taste and color of gingerbread; hence one of its common names is the gingerbread tree. The spongy, internal portion of the fruit of this palm forms an important article of food, and when this pulp is mixed with an infusion of dates, it constitutes a cooling drink, much prescribed by the Arabs in febrile affections as cooling and demulcent.—*Rural Press*.

It is always a pleasure to record an addition to our list of really hardy new plants; and especially so, when they are very beautiful and desirable in all respects. We now urge the claims of a new evergreen from Japan, which as yet, has no common name, but which is called by botanists, *Reinispora obtusa*. For the past five years—two of which have been more trying to our hardy plants than any within the recollection of our oldest horticulturists—this lovely tree has succeeded equally as well as the Norway spruce. It grows rapidly and forms a very graceful tree, with drooping, silvery-green branchlets; and appears equally indifferent to the extremes of heat and cold. So far as we have been able to judge, it is not affected by any particular soil or situation, but succeeds well wherever placed. So many of the lower evergreens have been injured of late years that our horticulturists have been about ready to give up the whole family in despair, as too fickle for this climate; but we think a fair test with this charming plant will assure them that one, at least, will prove desirable.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

## A New Evergreen.