

finer of their gardens. Many owners desire to have gardens, yet from lack of knowledge and intimacy with the varying laws of Nature in each individual case of the trees or shrubs, they proceed to work or give orders in such a way as to show an utter lack of sympathy with the subjects in hand.

"We have seen a pear tree on the walls of a house, and one who was supposed to be an experienced hand was set to prune it. Not only was the breast-wood hard cut back but the spurs were cut back too, quite irrespective of whether there was fruit buds below the cut or not. This as a matter of course precluded the possibility of fruit the following season. Quite recently we heard of the good wife of a house taking a fit of gardening in her lord's absence, and pruning the side shoots of the vines hard back to the main rods, and that too while they were yet far from mature. Possibly she had been reading about the installation of the new Adam in the gentle art of gardening, and had felt justified in coming to the support of the new profession. There are those whose conception of pruning is to shear in the bushes equally on all sides, whether evergreen or deciduous, so as to make them as uniform as possible. There is another kind of uniformity that is equally offensive to the eye, and altogether objectionable. This is the practice of pruning large trees all to one uniform shape, not merely that straggling branches may be headed back, to make the trees more compact and symmetrical according to their kind, but to fashion them according to one preconceived ideal. When such trees are leafless they are of ten strongly suggestive of scarecrows. The system of pollarding trees, especially Willows, in wet meadows is so common in the south that many have come to look upon such artificial creations as the right and proper thing. Naturally grown trees are, however, infinitely superior in every way, more graceful, more umbrageous, and more handsome, whether seen from near or from far in the landscape.

"There should always be some object in pruning, though we feel that every wielder of the knife would be ready to affirm that he was guided

by that aim. If the object is that of utility or ornament, the hand must be guided both by reason and taste in the latter case, and at least by reason in the former; otherwise there can be no intelligent pruning. In the case of fruit trees a considerable amount of skill and judgment are necessary to treat each variety of tree according to its natural inclination to produce fruit buds at particular places of the previous year's growth or otherwise. There is a considerable amount of variation even in this respect amongst apples. Trees belonging to other species and genera also require sympathetic treatment, and he cannot be considered a skilled or expert fruit grower who has not carefully studied all these peculiarities.

"Flowering trees and shrubs require equally skilled treatment to secure the best effects they are capable of producing. It may be as well to remember here that sub-tropical effects from foliage are sometimes desired, and that in this case pruning consists chiefly in cutting the branches hard back so as to encourage the development of rampant growth, for upon such the size of the leaves depends. Large leaves, each according to its kind, can only be obtained upon strong young wood, and the pruner is guided accordingly. When he is sent with his ladder, hammer, nails and shreds to prune flowering shrubs upon walls, a task has been set him that is not easily accomplished, if he is to acquit himself properly of the task, unless he has previously been a keen observer of the habits of each respective species. Unless accompanied and closely superintended by a skilled hand, he is apt to overlook the fact that one tree may flower from the wood of the previous season, it may be in the spring, while another may flower on the young wood produced in summer. Should the present time be adopted for the pruning of wall, the wielder of the knife must not prune away the young shoots of *Chimonanthus fragrans*, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, *Forsythia suspensa*, *Prunus triloba*, nor *Ribes speciosum*, as all these flower on the wood made the previous summer. The first two mentioned would have been in flower by this time but for the un-