

goes on, and with some sort of press, press the head down so that the apples shall remain firm and full under all kinds of handling. Apples may be pressed too much as well as too little. If pressed so that many are broken, and badly broken, they will soon get loose and rattle in the barrels, and nothing spoils them sooner than this. What we want is to have them just so they shall be sure to remain firm. Careful shaking so as to have them well settled together, has as much to do with their remaining firm as the pressing down of the head. After the barrels are filled and headed they should at once be placed on their sides in a barn or shed, or in piles covered with boards from sun and rain, or if a fruit house or cellar is handy they may at once be placed therein; the object should be to keep them as cool and at as even a temperature as possible. In all the operations of handling apples, from picking to market, remember that carelessness and harshness always bruise the fruit, and that every bruise detracts much from its keeping and market value; and always remember that "honesty is the best policy."

THINNING FRUIT.

It is the tendency of every well cultivated, healthy fruit tree, to set more fruit than it can perfect or bring to a good size. This is especially true of pears, and if large, well ripened fruit of this kind is desired, the fruit must be thinned out well, commencing when the fruit is the size of hazel nuts, again when they are about half grown, and again a couple of weeks before maturity. The latter "thinning" is frequently marketed, furnishing the "small boy" with cramps and cholera, and the doctors with business. In thinning out the fruit, do the work carefully, removing the smallest and imperfect ones only, and not like an Irishman we once

had who commenced with the largest ones, "to give the little ones a chance." The thinning should be done only by hand, for jarring the trees, especially the pear, is apt to work injury in many ways, and too often brings down the best and heaviest fruit, which should remain.—*Farm and Garden.*

GREEN PEAS.

TESTS WITH THE LATEST ENGLISH NOVELTIES.

Several years ago the *Rural New Yorker* tested 27 different kinds of peas—most of them well-known—and now reports upon tests made the past season with 14 different kinds. The seeds of most of them were procured from the originators or introducers in England, the older kinds being raised beside them for purposes of comparison as to yield, productiveness, habit, etc.

The soil, a clay loam, was well fitted by spading and raking, and manured with chemical fertilizer at the rate of 400 pounds to the acre and a light dressing of hen manure and muck. The peas were planted two inches deep, two inches apart, in drills three feet apart.

The object in planting the Old Philadelphia beside Landreth's Ex. Early, was to determine how much improvement the latter, which is now one of the most popular of the earliest class, showed over the former from which many of the earliest peas of to-day have sprung.

The object in planting the Little Gem beside the American Wonder, was to note differences which had previously seemed a little obscure.

The object in planting both the Telephone and Telegraph was to ascertain, by more careful observation than had been made in tests of three years ago, whether there were any marked differences between them. All were planted (by hand) April 3rd.