

WHEN TO PRUNE STREET TREES.

PASSING along one of the streets of our city to-day, I noticed a man trimming some very fine shade trees of about twelve years' growth, consisting of maples and elms.

From every cut on the maples the sap was dropping almost a stream, in some cases it was oozing out and spreading over the bark of the tree; the elms, of course, were not bleeding so freely.

I ventured to remark that I did not think it the proper time to trim shade trees, giving as my reason that at this season of the year there was a great loss of sap, especially in maples, and that I did not think that a cut made now would heal over as quickly as if cut in June, after the sap had gone up and the foliage was out. The trimmer stated that so far as he was personally concerned, he did not know much about that, but said he had been told that March was a good time in which to trim such trees. And I have noticed that our City Park Commissioner is busily engaged with a staff of men trimming the city shade trees.

Now, Mr. Editor, I write for information in reference to this matter; for

my own part I do not consider that shade trees, or any other trees, should be trimmed at this season of the year.

I would like very much if you would give your opinion on this subject, as you no doubt have had actual experience in trimming, both shade and fruit trees. I should also like to have the opinion of others, through your valuable Journal, especially on the trimming of shade trees, such as maples, elms, etc., and what is the best time to trim.

Will a large limb, say, from one to three inches in diameter, cut now, heal over as quickly as if cut in June? or do you think a cut made now will heal over at all? Is a tree not injured more by the sap running from a cut made now, than by the loss of vitality in producing the foliage on these limbs, if taken out in June?

I trust my enquiries are not out of place, and that anyone who may have studied this important matter of trimming street trees, may give the result of their experiments, or knowledge, through your paper.

A CONSTANT READER.

Toronto, March, 1897.

HOUSE PLANTS.

Dust, insects, dry air and over-watering are the principal difficulties that they have to contend with. By arranging some light covering to put over them while the room is being swept, and an occasional syringing in the bath-tub, kitchen sink or elsewhere supplemented by a sponging the leaves of all *smooth leaved* plants, this great enemy to plant health, may be kept under.

Insects may be mainly kept off by hand picking and a brush; if needed apply tobacco water, or arrange a box or barrel in which they may be thoroughly fumigated with tobacco smoke.

Over watering kills many plants; pots in the house, especially the handsome glazed ones, should be provided with abundant drainage—broken pots, cinders, oyster shells, anything to make open layer at the bottom; then a layer of moss to keep the earth from washing down, and then a soil made so open by sand that it will allow the water to pass through. With these precautions there is no danger, but where the surface of the soil is muddy an hour after watering, there is something wrong and plants will not thrive.

A. H. CAMERON.

Tyerton, Ont.