

TAKE CARE OF YOUR ORCHARD TREES.

When the owner visits his young orchard after the snows have melted away in spring, he often makes the disheartening discovery that many of his

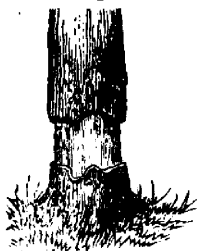


FIG. 1.

trees have been girdled by mice or rabbits. Judging from our own correspondence, the damage by these animals must in the aggregate be very heavy.

The first thing to be done is to examine the extent of the injury. Frequently it is not so bad as it looks, and the inner bark is not entirely removed. If this covers even a fourth of the

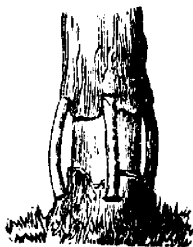


FIG. 2.

wounded portion, and connects the bark above the wound with that below it, the chances are that the wound will heal if drying can be prevented. The ordinary grafting wax, applied on

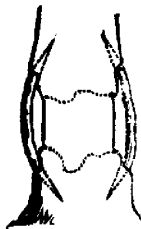


FIG. 3.

old, worn cotton cloth, or on paper, as used in grafting, should be applied over the injured portion. This, especially on quite small trees, will prevent all

evaporation. Another application is the old grafting clay, made by thoroughly mixing and beating together stiff clay with half as much cow manure. Apply this over the wound quite thickly, and fasten it in place by wrapping with an old

cloth and tying with strings. If the inner bark is completely gone, nothing

remains but to bridge over the wound with scions, and thus restore the communication between the roots and the top. The scions may be taken from the same tree if they can be spared, or those from another of the same kind will answer as well.—*American Agriculturist*.

Figure 1 represents the tree completely girdled and the inner bark removed, and figures 2 and 3 shew the manner in which the girdled portion is bridged over with the scions.

CHINESE FARMING AROUND SAN FRANCISCO.

The Chinaman began his usefulness as a market gardener in and around San Francisco nearly thirty years ago, in the days when the Americans had greater treasures to dig for in the earth than vegetables. Men enjoying the prospect of turning up a gold mine with their spades, were not likely to apply them to a potato patch. Yet these men had to eat, and others, not above the humbler occupations, worked to feed them. The first of the Chinese vegetable farmers thrived so well that other compatriots followed suit, and the housewives of San Francisco soon became familiar with the queer yoked figures and their heaped-up baskets, who announced their coming with a shrill cry, not unlike that of a New York milkman. At first each farmer made his first day's trade on the contents of two baskets. Then the more enterprising hired men to carry additional supplies. The farmer himself always led, and still leads, the van in these processions, which number from two to a dozen men. He carries the same burden as his hired hands, and does the bargaining for them; and as their baskets are emptied they are sent to the rear, instead of back to the farm to work. The procession leaves town as it entered it, in single file, while the usual chatter is still continued, as if keeping time to the pattering of their slipshod feet.