

## PRUNING THE GRAPE.



R. JABEZ FISHER, of Fitchburg, the well-known cultivator of fine fruit, gave a discourse at Boston, before the meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the substance of which we give in condensed form. He purchased his first vine, a Concord, forty years ago. Ten years afterward he had an enormous crop, four and a-half tons upon three fourths of an acre, which sold at a high

price. Success with grape-growing at present depended on circumstances, and if a person had a vineyard well situated and in good condition, he would advise growing the best possible product.

His experience taught him that the best soil is a strong one, inclining to clay, but not too heavy, with good drainage. Shelter is useful. A field in fit condition for corn is also suitable for grapevines. No training is necessary the first year. As soon as the leaves fall the vines should be cut down, leaving two or three buds only. The second year a single stake to each vine is sufficient. The pruning of the second year is similar to the first. A permanent support should be provided the third year, whether trellis, stakes or otherwise, as preferred. The object is to grow a single strong cane. When the length of six feet is attained this cane should be stopped by pinching off the point. All laterals that grow from this cane should be pinched so close that they may not divert growth from it. If it makes a growth of five to six-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, it will be safe to allow it to fruit for half its length, and it should be cut back to that point at the fall pruning. If less vigorous, the whole should be cut away as in previous years.

Fruiting too soon injures a vine seriously. If the vines are six feet apart they may fruit one cane and grow a new one, cutting out the one that has borne fruit. If twelve feet distant, two arms may be fruited of six feet each and two new canes produced to replace those fruited. This will require a year or two more to reach full bearing. Each vine may be allowed to carry as many clusters of fruit as there are spurs growing from the arm. Each fruiting spur may be tied to the trellis or allowed to swing free as in the Kniffen system. The system above described is the renewal system, the vine being, so to say, renewed each year and thus kept perpetually young. If the land is in good heart, and no other crop is grown upon it, no fertilization will be required before the third year, but otherwise it should be supplied from the commencement.

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**The Japanese Honeysuckle** and our native Bittersweet both have great merits in the adornment of house-walls, and another acquisition from Japan, in the way of a climber, is *Clematis paniculata*. With its delicate foam-like masses of white flowers, exquisitely aromatic, it has become a feature of the September landscape in various parts of the Boston suburbs. When combined with the Virginia Creeper its effect is strikingly beautiful.—Garden and Forest.