

excellent results. "It vastly lessens the expense of digging and filling holes, and gives better, longer lived orchards and vineyards than to plant full rooted trees and vines." He takes exception, however, to the practice of leaving the surface soil undisturbed and planting in sod, and claims that it is safest to thoroughly prepare the soil by deep plowing and subsoiling, planting the stub-pruned trees with a crowbar, and then practicing clean, shallow cultivation to get the best results.

The tenor of this controversy forces us to realize that even the gods of horticulture may disagree. In the face of such pertinent expressions of opinion, it probably would be presumptuous for us to express our ideas on the subject. Let us, therefore, be neutral for the present, and calmly watch the development of the discussion.

Before concluding, let us note Prof. Bailey's opinion of the system, as stated in "The Pruning Book": "The gist of the whole matter, so far as the theory is concerned, is that individual instances and the results of certain experiments have been enlarged into an hypothesis, which has been applied to all plants. The stub-root system is really not a system at all. It is not founded on a body of principles. It is a matter of practice, which will sometimes be useful and sometimes not. Its success depends on local and incidental conditions."

A. B. C.

Forcing Hard Wood Plants With Ether.

Some time ago Professor Johanson, of Denmark, published the results of researches and experiments in the use of ether in forcing lilacs out of season. The subject has since been taken up around Paris and experimented with quite largely. It has been found that any of the hard wood shrubs may be forced very quickly by first etherizing them. The process in brief is to take up the plant after it has become thoroughly dormant, allow the earth to dry out somewhat and then place it in an air-tight box in which is a reservoir to hold the ether. After the box is closed the ether is poured in through an opening which is at once carefully closed to prevent the escape of the vapor.

The plants are exposed to etherization about fifty hours, then they are placed in the hothouse, watered, and treated in the usual way. About 400 grams ether are used per cubic metre of air space. Plants have been brought to flower with this process in 12 days of forcing, whereas similar plants not treated had barely begun to grow in that time. Care must be taken that the plants are perfectly dry and dormant when they are put in. For the forcing of lilacs, azaleas, spireas, hydrangeas, dentzia, and other shrubs of like character, this process holds out considerable promise. It may be possible also to use it in forcing fruit trees in pots.

The man who eats no fruit is the man who has said in his heart, "It does not pay to set out trees; one has to wait too long for fruitage."