

surrounded with many waggon loads of boulders, scoria, scales of iron, and accumulations from a blacksmith shop, retained its health, vigor, and fruitfulness, while all other pear trees in that region of country were either dead or were suffering from blight. At this late date this tree still continues healthy (1864).

"4. I recollect reading in that reliable journal, *Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture*, some years since, a statement that the finest prize pears in the Parisian market were produced by investing the growing fruit with folds of cotton or linen cloth, and daily, or oftener, moistening them with a solution of sulphate of iron, this treatment was said to result in developing the size, beauty and quality of the fruit to a high degree, and especially to free them from parasitic blotches.

"5. Four years ago Mrs. Willer Dean, of Rockport, Ohio, informed me that blight might not only be prevented in healthy trees, but might be successfully arrested in many trees after it had made considerable progress, by means of repeatedly washing the bodies of the trees with a saturated solution of sulphate of iron (copperas) at a time when the sap was in active circulation.

"This was a confidential communication with the condition annexed that I should thoroughly test the plan, and if it should prove successful I was to publish it; and furthermore, if any merit or more substantial reward should be deemed due to any one by the public, she was to be the recipient.

"This plan has been but yet imperfectly tried. Age and infirmities will probably prevent its completion by me. I will therefore report that I have tested it on a number of my partially blighted pear trees, while a greater number has been left to die unmedicated. Of the former not one has yet died, while of the latter very few survive. It has appeared in every instance to arrest the progress of the disease and impart a healthy condition to the bark whenever applied."

Twenty-three years have passed since the essay, from which the above extract is taken, was written; and now as we call in view the important scientific discoveries of Dr. Griffiths, we find that that, which a few observing, thoughtful minds, were investigating in the dark a quarter of a century ago, is now revealed in the light of scientific research. But this is characteristic of the history of science.

It also shows its value as applied to agriculture.