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ORCHARDING.

The following is the paper read by Mr. George Leslie on Thursday April 3d, at the meeting of the Central Horticultural and Agricultural Club, in continuation of a former paper, on Orcharding and Fruit Culture:—

In my remarks on orcharding and fruit culture on the 5th March, I endeavoured to explain briefly the nature, and the process of preparing the ground, planting distance, mulching, pruning, &c., I proposed in continuation of the subject, to make a few observations on the following important points, namely: Manuring and after management of an orchard, diseases, costs and profits of an orchard, with a few remarks on gathering, preserving and marketing of fruit.

First then, MANURING AND AFTER MANAGEMENT OF AN ORCHARD.

Where the soil for an orchard has been properly prepared and cropped with green crops, the manure necessary for growing these crops will naturally help the trees; but no season should be lost without annual manuring of the trees, and this should be done early in November. It may be done cheaply and expeditiously in the following manner: Take a waggon load of barn-yard or stable manure, driving close along-side one row of trees after another, throwing out about a wheel-barrow full more or less, according to the size of the tree, and the next November it should be dug in by a fork, and renewed every year. The kind of manure should be changed two or three years after the orchard is planted. There are manures and composts of various sorts recommended for fruit trees, all of which are good if properly applied. For the last ten years I have used swamp muck, ashes, leached and unleached, cow-dung and lime, all mixed together and laid over for a year, and find it superior for all-kinds of trees. The lamented Dowling, who has done more than any other man to create a taste for fruit culture, recommended the following mixtures for fruit trees after they are well established in the orchard: For apple trees, to every cart load of muck or peat, five bushels unleached ashes, and two bushels good air slaked lime; for pear trees, to every cart load of peat and ashes add a bushel of ground bones; for plums the same, adding a peck of salt. These, I believe, will produce the fairest fruit, and are not so liable to create insects as pure manure. Indeed, how to prepare and apply manure is a matter in which every cultivator of the soil must feel interested. It matters not to what expense and trouble we go to procure the finest fruits and vegetables, unless we study the nature of our soil and the manure to apply to it, we must fail to a certain extent. Solid manures and composts of every kind should be applied in the autumn so that during winter and spring they may be dissolved and fitted to yield nutriment to plants when active growth commences. The snow and rains of winter and spring dissolve and wash down its most soluble parts, and place them within the reach of the roots by the time they are ready to take them up. These are the main points with regard to manure, and the remark is merely intended to draw attention to their importance.