

better in certain respects than anything which we have. Such has been the case quite recently. At the last meeting of the Eastern New York Horticultural Society there was on exhibition a very striking collection of apples, natural crosses between Spy and Newton Pippin, and Greening and Newton. Pippin. These were the result of patient effort on the part of Stephen Underhill, of Croton Point, on the Hudson. The Newton Pippin trees were surrounded by several other varieties. Seeds of the Newton Pippin were planted in every case. The young seedlings were carefully reared, and in due time bore fruit, which was remarkable in the fact that it had exhibited all gradations between the female parent on one side and the variety which probably furnished the pollen on the other. In this way there were some varieties which very closely resembled Newton Pippin. Others as closely resembled Northern Spy. One of these latter appeared to have considerable value. It was a Spy in color and size, but lacked the characteristic ribs of that variety. The flesh had the crispness of the Newton Pippin with some of the spiciness of the Spy. Its principal point of value lay, however, in its keeping qualities. As a rule the Spy is not a long keeper, as ripened on the Hudson. This variety, however, is said to keep easily until mid-winter or later. Its bearing qualities have yet to be proved.

Another interesting collection of apples, illustrating the fixity of certain types, consisted of a number of seedlings of the old Lady apple. It is well known that the Lady is one of the oldest types of apples in cultivation. It is found in all the European pomological works, and as a proof of its ancient origin has probably more synonyms than perhaps any other variety of apple grown. On account of its antiquity one would expect the type to be pretty well fixed. This surmise is strongly supported by the fact that in this collection of ten seedlings there was in every instance a strong resemblance to the parent. Some of them were exact reproductions. Others were a little larger, a few lighter colored, and one or two exact Lady apples, only improved in size and color. How much might be done in this way if fruit growers would take the trouble to follow the advice of the late Marshall P. Wilder, who said in one of the last addresses given to the American Pomological Society, "Plant the seeds continually of our largest and finest fruits. Watch the product, select the seed from the finest and plant again." In this way only can those closer adaptations to suit any climate so necessary to the production of fruit of the highest quality be satisfactorily brought about.

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PRUNING THE ROSE BUSHES should be attended to in May, but if neglected then, attention should even yet be paid to this work. It is the new wood that alone produces bloom, and for that reason, it must be encouraged. Vick says in his Magazine :

It is an astonishing thing to see how that, year after year, the chances of obtaining the most beautiful rose blooms are frittered away through unintelligent pruning of the plants, even in gardens of great reputation. There are thousands of rose bushes all over the country which, in spite of being found in spring to have made fine growth during the previous season, never produce good flowers,

and the explanation is generally to be found in the fact that no reasonable plan is followed in pruning.

The commonest mistake is the leaving of the older branching spray wood that has already flowered. Dwarf Rose bushes at the beginning of the year generally consist of several much-branched stems which carried bloom in the previous summer, add several strong straight shoots springing from the base of the plant. In the case of hybrid perpetuals, these older branching stems should be cut completely out leaving only the new shoots from the base which themselves should be then considerably shortened. If the old spray wood be left in it produces no flowers worth having, while the weak and crowded growths with which it becomes covered afford a perfect harborage to every known Rose pest.