

EVENING SESSION.

Question :—" When is the best time to prune ?"

T. H. PARKER :—I think it best to prune in the autumn, just after the crop is taken off, as at that time the tree is dormant, and I think that the wounds heal better than in the spring. As a rule we do not prune enough, we should thin out the branches to let the sunlight to every part of the tree ; but all wounds should be covered with paint, varnish, or melted grafting wax.

G. L. STERLING :—My experience in fall pruning is one that I do not want to repeat ; it has been fatal in some trees where I have tried it.

MR. PARKER :—I referred to excessive pruning. A few years ago I had some Ribstons that would not bear to suit me, and was induced to graft them out, and I cut them back very severely for that purpose. Those trees have since given good crops of large perfect fruit, and I have cut out the cions leaving the tree as it was.

J. T. JACKSON :—These are questions that can only be answered by extensive experiments, carefully conducted and repeated. Theories are all very well, but they must be proved before we can place much dependence upon them.

PRESIDENT :—This shews the necessity of experimental stations or farms carried on by the government, as no private fruit-grower or farmer can afford to make these costly experiments for his own benefit alone. The Dominion Government have made a good beginning with their central farm at Ottawa and branches in the North-West, British Columbia and Cumberland ; but I must say that unless a Fruit Station is started somewhere in the Valley that I fear that many of these questions discussed to-day will remain unanswered by their experiments, as soils and climatic influences are so widely different.

Question :—" What are the most profitable sorts of apples for a Commercial Orchard ?"

R. W. STARR :—The Commercial Orchardist must study his market, and that market at present is England, and probably will be for some time yet. He must therefore plant such kinds as will bring the best prices in their respective seasons, provided that they are also