

had an orchard of pears, a perfect sheet of white. We only got 40 baskets off 120 trees capable of bearing half a dozen baskets each tree. It seems to me it defeated itself, although we pruned it considerably. I think the pruning ought to be done earlier. If we cut off the bloom we are cutting off some of the vitality, as Mr. Powell has said. I recollect leaving some plum trees in the nursery till after the delivery season was over, and then we headed them back and the consequence was in the fall those trees did not weigh more than half what they did, and any person could go along and tell the difference in the weight as well as the growth. They were light and without sap. The late pruning had destroyed all the vitality of the trees. We had cut it off; it had gone. It was expended in the top of the tree, and to a great extent destroyed the whole growth. We want to do a large part of our pruning in the orchard early in the season. A great deal of pruning in our section is done by climbing up a ladder and getting around the inside of a tree and cutting out large branches and not cutting out the proper part of the tree. We do it by a different plan. We take our horse and rig, and with a platform we take our pruners and saws and get right out under the part of the tree that is bearing the apples, and thin out smaller branches, twigs, all through—thin out so that there is no branch nearer to its next neighbor than a foot or so. In that way we prune where we ought, and get the light and air through the bearing part of the tree. Then, I believe, in leaving the fruit in the crotch of the tree so that we don't have a lion's tail out on the branch. We might as well have our fruit distributed down the centre of the tree, and get a great deal more fruit without destroying the tree.

GEO. E. FISHER: I would be glad if Mr. Tweedle would give a date at which in his opinion apple trees should be cut.

MR. TWEEDLE: I would prune about the latter part of March or the first of April in our section in order to get the best results.

MR. MORRIS: I think a full session could be devoted to this subject. I differ from the last speaker as to the time of pruning. About the first of August the growth of the tree is about at a standstill; you thin it then and you have more fruit-buds, and more healthy buds. I would not thin out the big branches, and make long slender branches with an open centre, as I have often seen people do. A year ago I saw a full orchard destroyed by a man who knew nothing about pruning. He sawed out the large limbs through the top of the tree, left them all open, with the result that the sun came and struck the tops of those large limbs and killed half of them, and I believe almost destroyed that orchard for good. My plan of pruning, instead of taking out those large limbs, would be to cut them back on the outside. Keep your trees more compact, and run them up if you will, but do not let them spread out in long limbs and leave the sun get down to your big limbs on the inside. Even if it does not kill the bark right through, it has a tendency to stop the free flow of sap, and injures the tree very much. I remember some years ago that I read in the *Horticulturist* that May and June was the proper time to prune trees. I will just state that you cannot put a ladder or step on a limb in the month of June but what you are loosing the bark and causing a dead spot right there. It is all right if you can do it from the ground, but you must not step or put anything against a limb at that season of the year.

MR. WHITNEY: I think the whole matter hinges on when the fruit-buds are formed. I think they are formed about the time the green buds begin to start.

MR. JONES: I have tried to watch the development of the fruit-bud of the apple the last three or four years as carefully as possible, and as nearly as I can follow it, it commences to be built up shortly after the foliage unfolds in the spring. In our district that is about the first week in May; and I find that by the 20th or 25th June, or 1st July, that the fruit-bud for the next year seems to be fully built up in all its parts. But then if you take the bud and roll it in your