



Fig. 2217. The Pear Stem. The bark beginning to roughen after Craig.

gins to break up and fall away in scales. Each kind of tree sheds its bark in a manner

peculiar to itself. The shape of the scales is due primarily to the arrangement which the lenticles take in the young wood.

The age at which trees begin to shed their bark varies greatly with different species. In the grape vine, the inner bark is renewed each year, and that formed the year before is thrown out in long shreds. The sassafras has rough bark in two or three years, while the sweet chestnut often retains its smooth bark for over twenty years. The bark of the beech never becomes scaly, because it begins early in life to fall away in granules.

The apple and pear trees usually show a scaly bark at ten or twelve years of age. Trees that have been well cultivated and cared for retain their smooth bark much longer than those which have been neglected.

THE KIEFFER PEAR.

NURSEYMEN will be interested in the following statement by the Rural New Yorker, in response to a query from Benton Harbor, Mich :

We have been watching the Kieffer pear closely in this market. A few years ago in New York, during its season, the push carts and fruit stands were well covered with it. Many were sold to eat out of the hand, and the result, nine times out of ten, was evidently a disappointment. Gradually the fruit has disappeared from these retail stands, until now it is rarely seen. This is good evidence that the buying public recognize it, and will not buy it for eating from the hand. We believe that its sale will be limited to the demand for canning purposes, and there are few better fruits for this purpose. In order to make sure we have asked some leading fruit

dealers for opinions as to the future trade in Kieffers."

Stearns & Brothers, Baltimore, Md., state that the Kieffer does not bring the prices that other varieties do, and think that too many of them are grown. S. H. & E. H. Frost, New York, say : "The foreign demand seems increasing somewhat. This will help to relieve the market, and it may be that large increased production might pay many years to come."

Brown & McMahon, Philadelphia, say : "Our opinion is that the Kieffer pear business is very much overdone, and instead of planting more trees they had better cut some down." Archdeacon & Co., New York : "It may be very good for canning or cooking : in fact, in the South it is a pear which they prefer to all others, probably because they have no others."