

THE CHINESE SAND PEAR NOT BLIGHT PROOF.

We copy from one of our exchanges the following, which is credited to P. T. Quinn in "American Garden." There is one element wanting in this experiment to settle the question of the liability of the Chinese Sand Pear to blight, and that is this: Mr. Quinn seems to say that he grafted on healthy pear trees the Japan Pear, seedling of the Chinese Sand Pear. Now may it not be that the Japan Pear thus grafted on the common pear becomes by this union subject to blight, when if grown on its own stock it would be exempt? However the trees that are being offered for sale as blight proof because they are hybrids between the Chinese Sand and the common pear, are doubtless worked upon the common pear, and all claim to immunity from blight seems to be proven to be unfounded by the experience of Mr. Quinn. Have any of our readers planted any of these hybrid sand pear trees? If so, have they blighted? True, the fact that they have not yet blighted does not prove that they will not blight, and considerable time will be needed to ascertain, by introducing them into different sections of the country, and on all varieties of soil, whether they will be any less subject to it than our common pear trees. If they should prove to be less subject it will be some gain, provided the fruit is well flavored.

Some ten or twelve years ago I planted and grafted on healthy trees the Japan pears, seedlings of the Chinese Sand. These sorts have all the traits of their parent, in vigor of growth, rank foliage, which for brilliancy of color in the fall equals the red flowing maple, and besides being prolific bearers. The fruit seemed proof against insects, while the growth and habits of the trees seemed to defy attack from any source. My plan was to propagate these varieties and graft the slower growing sorts on them, and in this way get a more vigorous growth of wood, and possibly larger fruit, of sorts like the Seckel.

Until last year I had no reason to doubt that those Japan pears were blight proof. But now I have good reason to think differently. The fire blight struck these trees early last summer, and what is unusual it destroyed every branch and twig of several large trees, not leaving me a single sprig of wood to propagate from. This wholesale destruction of these kinds is more curious because we had only one more instance in the orchard during the year, and that was a couple of large branches of a Swan's Orange tree in a distant part of the orchard. This experience settles the question in my own mind that it is folly to assert that the Chinese Sand, or seedlings from it, are blight proof, for the instance which I have stated above prove to be the contrary.