

A FRENCH gardener finding a piece of woolen cloth, which had lodged on a tree, covered with caterpillars, acted upon the idea suggested, and placed woolen rags in several trees. Every morning he found them covered with caterpillars, which he easily removed.

Arthur Bryant, Sen., Princeton, Ill., an experienced orchardist, in a recent discussion in Iowa, stated that he preferred September and October for pruning apple trees and considered spring the worst time, for then the loss of sap lessens the vigor of the tree.

A gardener recommends, as many others have done, the hoeing of vegetables in the morning. He says he knows no particular reason for it unless it mixes something nutritive that is in the dew with the soil. May it not be, too, that loosened damp soil absorbs, sponge-like, nourishing gasses that lie low in the morning?

J. J. J. asks if the fruit on currant bushes that have been defoliated by currant worms is poisonous. We have repeatedly eaten such fruit. In order to divest yourself of all fears put the fruit after it is gathered in a colander and pour water over it copiously and then we should take the risk without a tremor; indeed we should take the risk without this precaution.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Some one has thus defined the various types of national character:—Put an Englishman into the garden of Eden and he would find fault with the whole "blasted" concern; put a Yankee in, and he would see where he could alter it to advantage; put an Irishman in, and he would want to boss the things; put a Dutchman in, and he would proceed at once to plant it with cabbages.

There is on the ground of Messrs. Graves, Selover & Willard, Geneva, N. Y., a beautiful variety of the Ash-leaved Maple (*Acer negundo*) having fine silver-variegated foliage. As the Ash-leaved Maple is very hardy, growing in the coldest parts of the Northwest, there is every reason to expect that this pretty tree will be perfectly adapted to our climate, and make a most desirable addition to our list of hardy trees with ornamental foliage, contrasting finely with the purple leaved beech and maple.

"Erastus," in the *Ohio Farmer*, does not see any advantage to be gained by planting evergreens in orchards as recommended by some writers. His objections are, briefly:—1. The result to the orchard is the same, virtually, as excessive or continued cropping. 2. He believes a better protection to the orchard will result from belts of timber about the orchard, and the soil of the orchard will not be exhausted. 3. He thinks (judging by his own experience) the effect upon the fruitfulness of trees is unfavorable.

A good word was said for the woodpecker, in the *Farmer's Club* the other day, and his extinction in some parts of the Country was mentioned with regret, especially by orchard men. This bird is provided with such an acute sense of hearing that he can detect the noise made by a borer beneath the bark of a tree, and his sharp bill enables him to dig through the bark and thus to find his food. The loss of the woodpecker is considered equivalent to the loss of half the apple crop.

A CHEAP way to make "hanging baskets," which are pretty for bed-room window, is to take pieces of

hoop-skirts, make two circles—the size depends on how large the basket is to be—then five other pieces, all joined in the middle securely, for the bottom, and join each piece on to the two circles with pieces of wire twisted round. That off old brooms does very well. Fasten up with stout cord; put layer of moss in it, then fill with good soil, and it is ready for the plants.

EXPERIMENTS in France and Holland have shown that sunflowers, when planted on an extensive scale, will neutralize the pernicious effects of exhalations from marshes. This plan has been tried with great success in the fenny districts near Kochefort, France; and the authorities of Holland assert that intermittent fever has wholly disappeared from districts where the sunflowers have been planted. It is not yet determined what effect the flower produces on the atmosphere—whether it generates oxygen, like other plants of rapid growth, or whether like the *conf. oz.* it emits ozone, and thus destroys the organic germs of miasms that produces fever.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Germantown Telegraph* says:—"Half an acre of land in a well cultivated garden, will do as much toward subsisting a farmer's family as any three acres on the farm, besides which the advantage in the cultivation of it would gratify a diversity of tastes, and contribute much to secure the blessings of health, and the labor can be shared also by those too young or too old to toil in the heavier operations of the field, and occasionally by the female inmates of the house, or the plowman from the field by way of relaxation from leg-toil, without any material impediment to other labors. Every farmer will best promote his interest by bestowing on the garden a due share of attention."

THE *Western Pomologist* says: "We have cultivated pie plant extensively for market, and find the best time to transplant is in the fall after the first frost. If the stools are large and require a division do not dig them up, but divide them as they stand with a spade by cutting off or dividing through the centre of the plant, leaving the part in the ground undisturbed. By this method you have a good crop the next spring on those left in the ground, and the balance you can divide up and reset and they will bear a good crop the second year but not the first. We have plants now standing ten years, divided in the above manner (when they got too large) and each year produce a good crop. The ground cannot be too rich, but must not be wet or the plants die out."

WOMEN AS HORTICULTURISTS.—We, (*Hearth and Home*), clip the following from the *Bee Keepers' Journal*, which bears the initials of our esteemed contributor, Mrs. Tupper:

"We are pleased to notice that two young ladies of our acquaintance are engaged, most successfully, this spring, in grafting fruit-trees, not only for themselves, but for neighbors, and are obtaining all the work they can do in this line.

"Why did not some one before this late day discover that this work was an appropriate one for women? Try it, country girls, obtain information on the subject; see how successful nurserymen proceed, and with a little practice you can do it quickly and well.

"E. T. S."