

low enough a price. So many fine young trees are destroyed by field-mice every winter, when the snow is deep, that we welcome any device which will protect and save this loss. Our own custom is to bank up all young trees throughout our orchards with fine earth, first, of course, clearing away all rubbish, grass, and suckers from the trees. This we do immediately after the apple harvest is over, setting the gang of pickers at the job with good sharp spades. It can be done quickly, and if properly done, is quite effectual.

Keane's Seedling Apple.

115. You will find come to you two apples mailed with this. They are seedlings. The tree is now, perhaps, near twenty, or about twenty years old. It has borne a crop of such apples for about nine years—*every year*. Last year was the *off year*, and it bore about two bushels, one-third, or I might say *twice* as large as these I send you. This year it bore twice as many as it should have been permitted to carry—the branch s bending to the ground all round, which has greatly lessened the size of the apple. I send it to you so you may judge of the quality, which I think is first-class. A few words in the December No. of the HORTICULTURIST will be enough. The tree grows about four miles north of Orillia town, on the farm of Mr. James Keane, being lot No. 3 in the 8th concession of the township of North Orillia, county of Simcoe. It is a chance seedling.—T. WILLIAMS, *Orillia, Ont., Oct. 17th.*

At first sight this apple has much the general appearance of Gravenstein, but is below average size, and strikes us favorably as a commendable autumn de sert apple. It is below medium size, of even form, roundish oblate, with closed calyx in a corrugated basin. The skin is shaded, splashed and striped with bright crimson, which is deepest on the sunny side. The flesh is white, crisp, fine grained, juicy, and of a rich, aromatic flavor. Since writing the above we have had a sketch of this apple prepared especially for this journal by Miss Evy Smith, of St. Catharines, and which we now present in this number. It gives a very truthful representation of the apple.

Quince Culture.

116. Will you tell me all about the soil, climate, culture and profits of quinces? Which variety pays best?—THEOPHILUS TYEHURST.

QUINCES are easily grown, and when planted upon suitable soil and properly cultivated are fairly profitable. Like most other fruits, however, the market price of late has considerably declined. Some years ago the writer received an average price of 75c. to \$1.00 per twelve qt. basket, but now-a-days the usual price is from 40 to 60c. per basket. Yet even these prices pay the grower.

The soil best suited for the quince is a rich, mellow, deep soil, well enriched. A good deal of difference of opinion exists regarding the best mode of cultivation, some advising ploughing and working up the soil, and others not. Certainly deep ploughing would be injurious, as the roots grow very near the surface; but having tried the effect of growing quince trees in grass, with heavy mulching of coal ashes, straw and manure, and also of cultivation with manure and wood ashes, we must give the result as favorable to the latter, both as regards size and quality of the fruit.

Our soil at Maplehurst is a sandy loam, inclining to moist, but well drained; perhaps in other soil the mulching might have the best results. Mr. Chas. Jones, of Newark, N. J., writes in the *Rural New Yorker* that he leaves the ground undisturbed, except to keep down weeds, and mulches heavily with salt hay in early summer, and gives a dressing of barnyard manure in the autumn. He states that he gathers an average of over 400 quinces, but he does not say anything to indicate their size.