

the old world, where the phosphates have been taken off in the grain, and the milk, &c., for many centuries, it may pay to restore it in superphosphates, guano and the like, at very high prices; but in our comparatively new soils, every thoughtful farmer will surely supply himself with all the manure he needs by using all that can be made on his own farm.

I have also had some experience in the use of bones; but I did not suppose that salt, soap-suds, ashes, liquid-manure, and the like, had any power of dissolving bones. I have always used sulphuric acid, and would suggest to "Sarawak" that he read up a little on chemistry before he again proceeds to dissolve bones. Sometimes perfectly green bones have been placed in a fermenting manure heap, and the process of fermentation has slaked the bones so that they were easily crushed; but usually it will be found necessary to employ sulphuric acid.

I notice, too, that "Sarawak" asserts that the Flemish Beauty pear will not succeed when budded on the quince stock. In this he is certainly mistaken, for I have growing on my grounds a Flemish Beauty pear on the quince stock, which bears fine crops of fruit every year. It is true that for the first two or three years the Flemish Beauty does not grow as rapidly when worked on the quince stock as many other varieties of pear, and on this account nurserymen do not usually bud it on the quince. Dwarf trees of this variety do not sell for any more than other varieties, and as they require to be cultivated one or two years longer before they can be sold, it is quite natural that those who grow trees for market should grow those which they can raise with the least expense. It is a noble pear, and equally fine when grown on a standard tree. True, the fruit is so large and heavy that it is very easily blown off by our high autumnal winds, and this is probably what "Sarawak's" neighbour meant when he laughed at him for pinching off the blossoms. I have suffered not a little from the blowing off of my finest specimens, but have adopted the plan of allowing my trees to branch out near the ground, and think that partly from this cause and partly by reason of the shelter afforded by the growth of other trees, the fruit is not blown off so badly now. I must say that I believe in low branched trees for our climate, both on account of our high winds and our severe winters.

What kind of a pear tree was it that produced such very different sizes on the same tree? To be sure, it may be hasty to form an opinion from one or two years of fruiting, but if that is the regular habit of the tree it can't be worth much. But it may be that it is not the habit of the kind, and I hope you will tell us, Mr. Editor, how it happens that this tree should bear eight large pears on one branch, while all the other pears on the tree were not more than half as large. I have seen a branch of a grape vine

on which the bunches were much larger and the berries fully twice as large as any on the other parts of the vine, and for some time I was exceedingly puzzled to account for it, until the cunning cultivator showed me a wire wound tightly two or three times around the branch near its junction with the main stem. Perhaps "Sarawak" has been doing something of that sort, and wants to puzzle your editorial brains a little over his own shrewdness. And yet the old man writes in such an easy, honest sort of way, that if one did not see the quiet twinkle in his grey eyes, as he looks up inquiringly from his pear trees, it would be quite impossible to believe he was quizzing.

I had some dwarf apple trees that would act just like "Sarawak's," plenty of leaves on the ends of the twigs, and then a long bare space before there were any more leaves. I did not like the looks of it, and went to work as soon as I found it out, and pruned them back severely, cutting off all the tufted ends and three-fourths of the bare space. This was done just after the trees had leaved out in the spring, and the buds that were left on the tree after a while broke and put forth leaves and branches of varying length. I took the hint, and since then, every spring, just as the buds are breaking, I go over my dwarf apple trees and cut back the young shoots that have made a long slender growth, and am no more troubled with these vagaries.

I am sorry my old friend can not think of any other early grape to plant than the Clinton. The Concord is not a very early variety, but with me it is a much better table grape than the Clinton, which is more used as a wine grape than for table use. "Sarawak" ought to join the Fruit Growers' Association and get an Eumelan grape vine, and see what that will do for him. And then there is the Israella, the Massasoit, Wilder, Delaware, and Creveling, all of them earlier than the Concord, and much better table grapes than the Clinton.

Some years ago I planted out a lot of fruit trees of different kinds. I had not taken all the pains I ought to put the soil in good condition, and some spots were very poorly drained, and in one or two places that were high and dry enough the soil was a very poor white clay. Three or four years after, I was greatly gratified by the appearance of a fine show of blossoms on quite a number of my trees, and was somewhat surprised to find, on closer examination, that it was for the most part those trees that were on the poor white clay that were blossoming so profusely, and some that were in the most badly drained places. I began to think I had made a fine discovery in fruit culture, and concluded that the great talk about thorough draining and all that was sheer nonsense. But I came, fortunately for my reputation, to the conclusion to give the matter a thorough trial before I ventured to give my great discovery to the public. One or two years

more, and my bearing trees ceased to bear and ceased to live, and now I believe that their early bearing was owing to a sickly condition of the trees, caused in some cases by starvation, and in others by excess of water. If "Sarawak's" trees fruit early from any such cause, it is surely a bad sign, but there are some varieties that come early into bearing naturally, such as the Red Astracan apple and the Bartlett pear.

Excuse my long letter, but I was so interested in "Sarawak's" experiences that I thought you might like to have my own.

WINOOSKI.

VIOLET RAYS.—A good deal of discussion has been going on lately amongst our neighbours in the United States, on the subject of growing plants under blue or violet coloured glass. The practice, on a small scale, is an old one in England, but we were never satisfied that any extraordinary results were attained, and we doubt whether the revival of this plan on the larger scale now proposed will repay the cost and trouble.

ASPARAGUS.—Conover's Colossal was sent from New York to Boston to carry off the prizes at the Exhibition last June. The best bunch of Conover, containing eighteen stalks, weighed fifty-six ounces, but a Boston bunch of common asparagus, containing only twelve stalks, weighed fifty-three ounces. Colossal will have to try again.

DESTROYING ANTS.—A French agriculturist reports that, after trying every method known for the destruction of ants infesting some of his fruit trees, he succeeded in effecting his purpose in the most complete manner, by placing a mixture of arsenic and sweetened water, in a saucer, at the foot of the trees. For the larger species, he made use of honey, instead of sugar; and found, in a few days, he could exterminate them completely.

THE APPLE CROP in the county of Elgin is much lighter this year than it was last. The old trees are but sparsely filled with fruit; young trees just beginning to bear are better laden than the older trees. The R. I. Greening is evidently a very popular variety throughout the country, and seems to have been introduced at an earlier period than its companion sorts, the Baldwin and Roxbury Russett. Yet wherever these have been planted they seem to thrive equally well, and will eventually be held in high esteem. So far as our information extends, the apple crop is lighter than usual, not only in Ontario, but in Western New York and in England. The extreme dry weather which has prevailed in some of the apple growing districts has been unfavourable to the growth of the fruit, and autumn and early winter varieties are ripening unusually early.

Judging by the specimens at our principal horticultural exhibitions, it would appear that the past season has been favourable for the growth and ripening of pears.