



GROUP OF CACTUS.

**WHEN AND HOW TO PRUNE.**

In pruning, the question is not so much when as how. The object in cutting a tree should be, as occasion may require, to preserve a proper balance between top and root, to correct imperfections of form, to encourage the growing of new wood, or to prunise fruitage. To correct ugliness we can cut away branches at pleasure, and trim others so as to promote their growth in any direction we may desire. In doing the latter it is well to remember that the bud in the axil of the leaf next below your cut, if healthy, will be the one most likely to push, and by noting the direction of the bud, whether inward, outward or sideways, we can select one which will send its branches in the direction we desire. These considerations will apply also when we cut for new wood either with the object of grafting or because the tree or vine bears its fruit or flowers upon the new wood. They will enable us to preserve beauty with usefulness. To cause a fruit tree to come into bearing we must cease cutting its branches, for cutting them promotes growth, and while a tree is vigorously growing it sets few fruit spurs. We may, in a measure, help it to set spurs by pinching off the growing ends of the new shoots. In cutting a tree care should be taken that a few leaf-bearing twigs are left in the length of a limb, or, if the top does not furnish some shade, even on the trunk itself, to help the capillary circulation by evaporating surfaces not too widely dis-

tributed. This is more important in the case of newly transplanted trees. While in the fall, when the sap has become thickened, but with still sufficient vitality to heal the cut, and the early spring, just before the sap has started to flow, are generally good times to top prune; yet one time is better for some kinds of trees than others. Those which are likely to bleed severely if cut before they leave in spring, like some maple and grape vines, should be cut in the late fall or winter, long enough before sap-starting time for the wood to die at the cut and cork the capillaries. But if the cutting of them should be neglected at that time, then by leaving them until after the leaves are pretty well grown we can cut them without the least fear of injury.—*Orange County Farmer.*

**LARGE CROPS OF STRAWBERRIES.**—Mr. Hale, who has large experience in raising strawberries, says that right methods of culture will bring from 400 to 500 bushels of strawberries to the acre in a single season, the requisites for success being a thorough preparation of the soil to start with, thorough draining, naturally or artificially, deep plowing and subsoiling, perfect mellowing, and liberal manuring. Productive sorts are of course all essential.

Nearly a million lottery tickets were sold last year in Italy. No wonder such a people remain in poverty.