

* Our Book Table. *

Among the subjects treated in Maynard's "Landscape Gardening," are: "Landscape Gardening and Home Decoration," "Ornamenting New Homes," "Preparation of Land Trees and Herbaceous Plants," "Walks and Drives," "Improving Established Homes," "Roads and Roadside Improvements," "Public Squares," "Parks," "Cemeteries and School Yards," "Description of Trees and Shrubs," "Evergreen Trees," "Ornamental Shrubs," "Hardy Herbaceous Plants," "Aquatic Plants," "Hardy Ferns and Ornamented Grasses," "Insect and Fungi Injurious to Ornamentals."

HARDINESS OF JAPAN PLUMS.—We are inclined to think that this plum will endure more frost than is usually supposed. Mr. Hale says they will stand 25° below zero; and perhaps he is not far wrong, for at Day's Mills, North Algoma, where the thermometer often goes lower than that, we found both Abundance and Burbank in good condition after two years planting.

PLANT LICE OR APHIDS.

If there is any group of insects that requires the constant attention of nurserymen, green-house owners, orchardists and farmers, it is the family of plant lice or aphids. The season of 1898 has been unusually favorable for these vermin, as is always the case when the spring opens moist and cloudy, with very little hot weather early in the season. Such widespread and well-known pests require very little description; their small, pear-shaped bodies, rarely exceeding one-quarter of an inch in size, with the slender legs and feelers, are known to everyone. The life-histories of these plant lice are, however, not so well known, and in many cases they are as yet a mystery. Many species pass the winter in the egg stage, although a large number of species are not yet known to produce eggs. "The 'winter eggs,' hatching in the spring, produce wingless females, which bring forth living youth without the intervention of the male. In some cases these young produce in turn winged females, in other cases wingless females (but these, whether winged or wingless, have the same power of producing young without pairing), and in the great majority of cases, if not

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Aphids are sucking insects, taking their food through a slender tube which is thrust deep into the tissue of the plant. For this reason any arsenical poison that may be deposited on the surface of the plant will do them no harm; they will thrust their beaks clear through the poison into the plant and will suck the sap from beneath the surface. To kill these little robbers it is necessary to use contact poisons, such as kerosene emulsion, whale-oil soap, tobacco-water, Pyrethrum, or some application which kills by closing up the pores or by irritation, or else to use some vapor, smoke or gas, such as tobacco smoke or carbon bisulphid. In all, this method of reproduction is carried on until fall. Then in some cases males and females are produced, which, after pairing, give rise to one or more eggs, which serve to keep the species over winter. In many instances, as with the black peach-aphis and the grain aphis, the aphids themselves live over winter. In some cases, as in the case of the hop-aphis (*Aphis humuli*), the winter eggs are laid on one plant (in this case on the plum, while the young migrate to some other plant in the spring. The hop-aphis migrate from the plum to hop-vines and passes the summer there.