

cooking, while the trees are often loaded down with fruit when only two or three years planted, while other sorts of the same age have not a single specimen.

The KIEFFER'S HYBRID PEAR, he adds, is a greater favorite than ever, now that people are learning that the trees are blight-proof, and that its large and high-colored fruit sells at such handsome prices.

We note on this point of being blight-proof that Mr. Thomas Meehan says that instances have occurred where the tree has suffered severely from the genuine fire-blight, so that it is hardly safe to say that the trees are wholly proof against the fire-blight, though they may be less subject to this sore malady of the pear than many other varieties. If it shall prove to be no more subject to this disease than the well-known Seckel, Duchess d'Angoulême, or Doctor Reeder, it will be an acquisition in this particular. It is no doubt a fact that large orchards of this pear have been planted, and that some of them are coming into bearing, and that the fruit canning establishments eagerly buy up this fruit for canning purposes, because of its handsome appearance when canned and its peculiar Quince-like flavor.

Mr. Charles Downing, the well-known American pomologist, met with a serious accident on the 9th of November last in the City of New York, by which two of his ribs were broken. He is eighty-one years old, and it is feared that permanent ill effects may result, though hopes are entertained that it will not prove fatal. Every reader of these pages, will, we are confident, feel as though a much esteemed personal friend had been prostrated by this accident, and will sympathize deeply with this veteran worker in the field of pomology who has done so much for our favourite science.

## SPECIAL FERTILIZERS FOR MELONS.

Dr. Sturtevant says that in growing melons, it seems well to add a handful of sulphate of potash, or several handfuls of wood ashes, to each hill. The effect seems to improve greatly the quality of the fruit grown, and if his experience is sufficient to generalize from, he would say that the addition of potash in excess to the soil upon which the melon is grown will add an excellent quality to the fruit.

## PEACHES FOR MARKET.

Mr. P. M. Augur writes to the *Rural New Yorker* that he has been visiting the Delaware Peach Orchards, and mentions trees whose girth was from 36 to 44 inches, with proportionate heads, loaded with beautiful fruit. He says that most of the very early varieties rotted badly, still those who had good Alexanders got from two to three dollars per basket when they reached market in good order. Hale's Early also rotted badly, and Early Rivers rotted, while Early Beatrice were too small. The best kinds this year were Mountain Rose, Crawford's Early, Crawford's Late, Old Mixon Free, Reeve's Favourite, Moore's Favourite, Ward's Late, Stump the World and Smock.

He says that the Shakers at Enfield, Connecticut, last year thinned their Early Crawford's so that one hundred and forty peaches filled a bushel and sold them at their nearest market for eight dollars per bushel; and adds, "let all remember that fancy fruit brings fancy prices; it is the poor article that begs a market." The Mountain Rose takes the place of the Early York now; the Old Mixon Free is regarded as having many good qualities, and can be raised probably more cheaply than almost any other peach, and is excellent for canning, only that the fashion now