

FARM AND GARDEN.

Practical Suggestions on the Time and Manner of Pruning Trees Intended for Timber—Minor Topics.

Pruning Timber Trees. Pruning, in its legitimate sense in the culture of forests, writes a correspondent of The Garden, denotes only the removal of unsightly excrescences or superfluous parts of trees with the view of making the bole grow straighter, higher, and more regular. This, I know, is still a disputed subject, some strongly advocating its necessity and utility, while others deprecate it as useless and injurious. The truth probably lies between the two extremes, for much may no doubt be done in assisting nature to rectify defects and to correct deformities, and in adding to the general health, beauty and vigor of the tree. On the other side, it is not less true that many trees are irreparably injured and whole plantations rendered useless by unskillful and indiscriminate pruning and wholesale mutilation.

Many authorities agree that pruning is beneficial and essential in promoting the profitable growth of most hardwood trees, but this may be rendered less necessary in certain situations by thick planting and judiciously timed thinning. Pruning should commence when the trees are three or four years old, and should be continued if necessary during the after growth of the tree. No general rules can, however, be laid down on this point which shall equally apply to all circumstances and situations. There is no doubt that much of the success of pruning depends on the manner in which it is performed. Branches which are to be amputated should be cut off clean, smooth, and close, making the stroke upward, and with a sharp bill, in order that the bough may not splinter and carry away with it portions of the bark from the bole, which is both dangerous and unsightly. Although it is generally agreed that one leading shoot should be preserved, it is an erroneous practice to cut away all the side branches at once, and the removal of large boughs should be avoided as far as possible. Although hardwood trees generally derive benefit from pruning, coniferous trees do not admit of being pruned at all, unless under special circumstances, and then only with great care and judgment. The pruning of timber trees has had many warm advocates, especially in Scotland, and no one perhaps has explained the real or imaginary advantages of the system better than Mr. Cree. He says "To manage woods in a proper manner, young trees should be examined well the third year after they are planted, and if more than one leading shoot is found to exist the best should be selected and the others shortened to one-half the length of the selected shoot. "This practice of examining the trees should be continued every year until they are about fifteen feet in height. These shortenings, however, must not be confined to superfluous leading shoots, but extend to any branch which is gaining a disproportionate ascendancy over other branches of the same year's growth. At first, and for some time previous to this stage of the growth of the plant, the shortenings should be more carefully performed than is necessary afterward. The process of examining a tree is a simple one; it is done in a moment by the pruner casting his eye over the whole tree and detecting the branches which require to be shortened. As a general rule, where it is found that any branch has a greater growth upon it than the leading shoot, it should be shortened by cutting to about half the length of the leader. Writers differ much regarding the best way of cutting off the branches. By some it has been recommended to leave snags—that is, to allow a few inches to remain between the stem and the place where the branch is cut off. This is a bad system. Even granting that trees suffer much by bleeding when cut close to the stem, that bleeding will soon be prevented by the wound becoming healed. There are two evils attending the practice of leaving snags. In the dim and many other trees of considerable size an effort is made by the tree to cover the snag long before its growth is sufficient to reach the amputated part, and the consequence is that a large knot in the wood is formed, thus defeating one of the principal objects which it is the business of the pruner to accomplish. But another evil consequent upon this practice, where no effort is made by the tree to cover it until the annual increase of the alburnum circles shall have done so, is that the snag, in resinous trees in particular, is always liable to bleed until it is healed, or when the snag has lost its vitality it soon becomes liable to rot. From this latter circumstance arises the danger of finding large trees, apparently sound when cut down, rotten in the interior. This is frequently the case with snags, even in middle-sized trees. When large branches, too, are amputated from old trees before the growth of the tree can cover the part it has become rotted, and by exposure to the atmosphere moisture is carried down the pith of the tree, which commences the work of decomposition, spreading to other parts of the wood."

Another writer says: The physiology of pruning trees requires looking into. The woodman in pruning cuts the branch clean off near the trunk, leaving the concentric rings which usually form round the base of a branch. As growth progresses, the bark gradually grows over the wound till it is quite covered, and it is then supposed to be healed. The time required for this depends on the size of the branches, but in good-sized branches it takes years. Meanwhile, the exposed wood is very apt to collect moisture, and from that and other causes the tissue rots back into the trunk, leaving a hole which may in the end destroy the tree, and always injure it more or less. Paint will prevent decay, but unless it is applied frequently it wears off, the face of the wound cracks, water gets in, and decay follows. I have examined many tree wounds from artificial pruning, and found this to be the result in numerous instances. Nature prunes in another way and with different results.

Decaying branches break off sooner or later some distance from the trunk. When this happens, nature at once begins to work by closing in the bark at the base of the branch, which is finally forced off when the bark meets, if not before. In vigorous trees decay in such a case rarely extends farther than the base of the branch, because the projecting pieces afford protection from moisture until the wound is healed over, as is often very well shown in the buried knots of sawn-up trees.

I had a ramble through a broad belt of woodland the other day, which, I am assured, the "pruning-hook" has never entered, and was impressed by the fact that it had never apparently been missed. The trees are rather crowded, having been planted for sheltering purposes, but, with the exception of those at the margin of the belt are remarkably straight and clean—although they are all deciduous—showing that the shape of timber trees depend more upon thinning than pruning. The wind has little power to do injury to such a plantation, but many of the lower branches decay and fall off naturally before they get struck, and hence leave no mark on the trunk, because the knots soon heal over. If this were not the case, such a thing as a clean pine or fir-tree would never be seen in plantations, for, as a rule, these are subjected to no other pruning than nature affords, and which consists in the shedding of so many branches annually. Within the past few years there have been cut here large tracts of as fine larch, perhaps, as could be seen, every tree bare of branches to near the top, from nature's pruning. There was not an unsound trunk among them from decayed branches. The same thing happens with deciduous trees under similar conditions: If the trees are judiciously thinned, the lower branches decay and fall off before they grow large, and the marks of them disappear in a short time.

Minor Topics. Plenty of grass should be given fowls in confinement, in order to keep them in good healthy condition. The sheep business, comprising both the wool and mutton produce, is one of the greatest industries in the United States. It is claimed that if milk is brought just to the boiling point, then poured immediately into cans and sealed airtight, it will keep for an indefinite period. In hot weather all the unconsumed food should be frequently swept away from the chicken coops, as it soon sours and acts like poison if taken into the crop. Potash on grape vines has been tried with great success, especially on light soils. It is said to promote the thrift of the vines and largely increase the yield of the crop. Scotch farmers hold that cut straw is better for the dairy when newly threshed, and therefore they thresh each day enough fodder for the next day's consumption. At the annual sheep shearing in Vermont the heaviest ram's fleece was twenty-eight pounds thirteen ounces, and the heaviest ewe's fleece twenty-one pounds eight ounces. It is said that the originator of the Concord grape has raised over 20,000 seedlings in the past 35 years without finding his ideal grape, and only 21 had desirable qualities. A mistake is frequently made in over-feeding after lambing and then reducing the supply, whereas the lambs need more milk as they grow larger, and this should be provided for. Plants watered with water a few degrees warmer than the temperature of the atmosphere will make a far more vigorous growth, all other conditions being equal, than those to which cold water is applied. Some fruitgrowers claim that alternate rows of pine and fruit trees prevent the moth and other destructive insects from injuring the fruit. The strong odor of the pine is obnoxious to a great many kinds of insects. Spreading the manure or fertilizer over the ground broadcast is much better than placing it in hills or rows, as the roots of plants spread out in every direction, and thereby utilize the manure to greater advantage. Early lambs are the most profitable. A cross of the Cotswold and South-down lately produced a lamb that dressed twenty-four pounds at two months old, which sold for twenty-two cents a pound, a total sum of \$5.28. Lime and salt, mixed with a soft food, is one of the cholera remedies for poultry, but the method generally adopted as the most efficacious is to give each sick fowl a heaping teaspoonful of hyposulphite of soda in enough water to slightly moisten it. Plantain, dandelion and other weeds in a lawn may be destroyed by placing a little sulphuric acid with a stick in the crown of each plant. The acid should be carried in an open-mouthed bottle with a long handle, so that fingers and clothes are protected. The killing of sheep by dogs is usually done during the night. To guard against dogs the sheep should be induced to come up every evening to be fed inside of a high inclosure made of palings or wire, with an open shed in the center for protection to the sheep against storms. A gentleman at Germantown, Pa., who was greatly annoyed by the flocking of sparrows in large numbers to an ivy which covers one side of his house, got rid of them by sifting half a pound of red pepper down through the vine. The birds at once left in disgust and have not returned. Cleanliness is absolutely indispensable in the dairy. Wash in tepid water every dish, implement or utensil that comes in contact with milk or its products, then scald in boiling water or steam, rinse in cold water and expose to the air—and sunshine if possible—until wanted for use. All kinds of grain may be fed to fowls with benefit, as variety seems to be an advantage. A single kind of grain, with the necessary animal and vegetable accompaniment, will secure profit, especially if that grain be wheat, less so if it be corn, but a variety of seed is still more profitable.

Spelling Match. Can you spell? Well, yes; almost anybody can spell. Then spell this, and make out what it means. If you can't, then pass it on to your next neighbor: B-B-E-E-I-I-N-N-O-O-R-R-R-R-S-S-T-T-W-W.

Don't say it out loud, but just whisper in your pretty neighbor's ear, that if she will place these letters in proper position she will have the world's greatest tonic, which will enrich her impoverished blood, put roses on her pale cheeks and make her strong and happy. Go to the nearest drug store with a dollar in your hand, and ask for Brown's Iron Bitters.

The Confessions of a Smoker. Yes, it is a terrible bondage. It is a slavery. Yes, I inhale the smoke, and then blow it out again. It is very silly, is it not? I do the same thing with my breath. Away with this useless breath. Some breaths are much pleasanter far away. Why do I smoke cigars? Because I am the biggest, and therefore the cigar cannot help itself. It is an economical habit; the smoke of the cigar keeps the moths out of my hair. Then I use tobacco to preserve human life. Science tells me that three drops of the oil of tobacco placed upon the tongue of a rattlesnake or a dog will kill either or both of them in a minute. I tremble to think how many times I walked in the very shadow of death before I began to carry a plug of tobacco around with me. Now when I meet a mad dog, I am secure. He may bite me, but I will kill him. The cannibal who eats me will dream that night that he got hold of the wrong prescription. —Bob Burdette.

As if by magic ones pains vanish if he be a sufferer from rheumatism or neuralgia and applies St. Jacobs Oil, the pain-banisher. For Coughs and Colds Red Star Cough Cure is a safe, pleasant, sure remedy. An Absent-Minded Barber. "Yes," said the proprietor of an uptown barber-shop, "Jim was a good workman, but I had to get rid of him. He was too absent-minded and forgetful. One old fellow, with a head like a billiard-ball, he never failed to ask if he didn't want a shampoo. Another bald-headed old chap got mad because Jim insisted upon selling him a bottle of 'Elixir' that was warranted to keep the hair from falling out. He cut one man's ear nearly off while watching a dog fight in the street. Jim didn't mean nothin' wrong, but as I said he was absent-minded. When old Deacon Jones died, the family sent for a barber to shave him, an I told Jim to go up. It was that job that lost him his situation. He did the work all right, nobody ever found fault with Jim's work, but when he had put on the finishing touches an' pulled the towel off the poor old deacon, he turned 'round and shouted 'Next!' so that the people heard him a block away. So I told Jim that I guessed I'd have to let him go." —New York Sun.

A Country Without Theater or Circus. Everybody on the island of Malta works and slaves at least sixteen hours a day, and he is fortunate, indeed, who counts his weekly stipend at a dollar and a half. There never has been a theatre or a circus or a secular holiday in Malta, and the popular amusement is confined to feast days, when the people congregate in one place and make themselves sick on pink candy. In the evening, when the hot, blistering sun goes down, you can go up to the basin, where the sea leaves a placid pool in the rocks and indulge in the giddy dissipations of a bath. You can live there in splendor for five dollars a week, but at the end of four years you won't know whether you are a catman or blind fish. —Washington Republican.

If you are tired taking the large old-fashioned griping pills, and are satisfied that purging yourself till you are weak and sick is not good common-sense, then try Carter's Little Liver Pills and learn how easy it is to be free from Biliousness, Headache, Constipation, and all Liver troubles. These little pills are smaller, easier to take and give quicker relief than any pill in use. Forty in a vial. One a dose. Price 25 cents. Mark Twain is said to be worth nearly half a million. "ROUGH ON PAIN." Cures cholera, colic, cramps, diarrhoea, aches, pains, sprains, headache, neuralgia, rheumatism, etc. Rough on Pain Plasters, 15c. Franz Lizzi, the pianist, is seventy-four years old. The adoption by most of the prominent dairymen and farmers of the United States of the Improved Better Cheese made by Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt., is a proof of their wisdom in a business point of view. Nearly all winter butter is colored in order to make it marketable, and this color is the best, in regard to purity, strength, permanence and perfection of tint. Halford Sauce the best. Do not buy any imitation. Dr. Mary Walker can frown but she never indulges in swear words. Save time and money by using Stewart's Healing Powder for cuts and sores on animals. Sold everywhere, 15 and 50 cts. a box. Try it. M. Ronan is not handsome, but has winning ways and a fascinating smile. H. H. FELCH, Rockford, Ill., says he finds Veterinary Carbolisole unequalled for the cure of cuts, galls and scratches, and the longer he uses it the better he likes it as a remedy for general stable use. Bismarck's old trouble is neuralgia. He thinks it a nuisance. Weak and Weary. Describes the condition of many people just now. The warm weather, late in coming, seems more debilitating than ever. You may be weak and tired in the morning, without appetite and without energy. If so, you need Hood's Sarsaparilla to build up and strengthen your body, purify and quicken the sluggish blood, and restore the lost appetite. This medicine will do you good. "I was almost completely run down, and was for four years under medical treatment, being given up to die by physicians. I have never taken anything which gave me as much benefit as Hood's Sarsaparilla, which restored me to health and vigor. I recommend it to any invalid whose system is prostrated. It will rebuild the system and give new life." NELLA KOSLE, Peoria, Ill. "During the summer months I have been somewhat debilitated of run down. I have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla, which gave me new vigor and restored me to my wonted health and strength." Wm. H. CLOUGH, Titon, N. H. Hood's Sarsaparilla. Sold by all druggists. 51; six for \$5. Made only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass. 100 Doses One Dollar.

A Good Endorsement. E. C. Taylor, late a farmer near Junction City, Kan., now of Winlock, Lewis Co., W. T., writes to Drs. Dickerson & Stark, of the Kansas City Surgical Institute: "I thank God a thousand times that I placed my paralytic son under your care. He is now well and has recovered the full use of his limbs."

On life's journey, without a destination, the traveler is sure to get lost in the woods. The purest, sweetest and best Cod Liver Oil in the world, manufactured from fresh, healthy livers, upon the sea shore. It is absolutely pure and sweet. Patients who have once taken it prefer it to all others. Physicians have decided it superior to any of the other oils in market. Made by CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., New York. Chapped Hands, Face, Pimples, and Rough Skin, cured by using Juniper Tar Soap, made by CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., New York.

Mr. Blaine will summer in Maine. The new postal card will blush for itself. It is to be pink. MOTHERS. If you are falling broken, worn out and nervous, use "Wells Health Renewer," all Druggists. Book-worms are of no use to fish in the forgotten streams of knowledge. If afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it, 25c.

When you visit New York City, via Central depot, save Bazaar Express and \$3 Carriage Hire, and stop at the Grand Union Hotel, opposite said depot. Six hundred elegant rooms fitted up at a cost of one million dollars; \$1 and upwards per day. European plan. Elevator. Restaurant supplied with the best. Horse-cars, stages and elevated railroad to all depots. Families can live better for less money at the Grand Union Hotel than at any other first-class hotel in the city. A maid is a young lady who is single and who will be won is she marries. LIFE PRESERVER. If you are losing your grip on life, try "Wells Health Renewer," Good direct to weak spots. There are no white elephants in the circus this year. What-wash has some up. When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

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