ORCHARD AND GARDEN.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF SUBURBAN AND COUNTRY HOMES.

A New Pear, the Worden, Introduced by Schuyler Worden, the Originator of the Worden Grape—Nectar Made of It in American Garden.

In the illustration here given from American Garden is shown a dish of Worden pears. The Worden is a seedling from the Seckel. The tree has fruited five years with its originator, Schuyler Worden, of the Worden grape fame. It is an upright grower, bears its fruits in clusters, and according to Mr. Worden drops from the tree the least of any pear he grows. The fruit is broadly bell shaped, flattened on the apex and obtuse at the lower end; stem short, straight and thick, oblique in a very shallow or nearly obsolete cavity; calyx open, the basin scarcely manifest; color rich yellow, with a bright crimson flush upon the exposed side; flesh crisp, melting, slightly musky, very aromatic, high in quality. In season is last of September and first of October.

WORDEN PEARS.

John J. Thomas, who has examined specimens of this variety grown in 1889 and 1890, pronounced them as fine, and looks upon the Worden as a remarkable acquisition.

Notes on Syringas.

The earliest species of lilac to bloom is Syringa chinata, while one of the latest is the large treelike S. J. Japonica. The interval between these two extremes is from five to six weeks. As a sequence of flowering lilacs is sometimes a desideratum the following data from Garden and Forest will give an approximate idea of the times of blossoming of the different species. Syringa chinata blossoms around and in New York about the middle of May, varying with the state of vegetation in being a little earlier or later, according to season, situation and exposure. A week or more after S. chinata begins to blossom the first flowers appear on the earliest garden varieties of the common lilac (S. vulgaris).

Out of the hundreds of the so-called varieties of S. vulgaris the amateur, where only space for one or two plants of this type, will find satisfaction in the old Charles the Tenth or a dark red, and Marie Lagrange as a large flowered pure white one. The first flowers of S. vulgaris generally appear at the end of the first week of June. This and Syringa Josikaea continue to maintain fresh flowers for about a fortnight, and it is not until the last of them are fading that the blossoms appear on those species belonging to that section of the genus which have white flowers and very short tubular corollas. The finest and most desirable of these is S. Japonica.

Evergreens and Dwarf Deciduous Shrubs.

The proper places for evergreens and dwarf deciduous shrubs are the open spots on the margins of groups of tall trees and on the backgrounds of lawns, but always where they are not shaded. Under such circumstances the growth is healthy, and evergreens look bright and clean in winter when they are seen most, and all flowering species flower in due season, because their growth is properly matured. In ordinary and most kinds of shrubs will grow if they have head room.

In the course of a few years rich mold from the annually shed leaves of the trees accumulates on the surface, and is as good as or better than any manure that can be applied. Indeed the practice of clearing the leaves out from beneath the shrubs cannot be too strongly condemned, because they are the natural and only provision for the roots, alike protecting them from cold and providing them in time with the very kind of food which they require. All evergreens shed their leaves annually like other trees, and as their leaves are very abundant they soon form a deep layer on the ground. But, as has been hinted, the greatest disappointment results from planting them under trees.

Cherry Culture.

In a paper read by Professor Lazenby before a meeting of the Ohio Horticultural society on cherry culture was enumerated the advantages of the cherry: 1. It comes earliest in maturity, and is valuable on this account alone, to say nothing of its excellence. 2. None of our large fruit plants requires so little attention in the way of pruning and training. 3. Cherries, both trees and fruit, are comparatively free from injurious insects and fungous diseases. 4. The fruiting season is a comparatively long one.

The principal disadvantages are: 1. A lack of hardiness in many of the better varieties. 2. The liability to loss from fruit eating birds.

A Word About Heliotropes.

Heliotropes will not bear undue forcing, and should have as much light as possible during the dull winter time while being brought on to flower. Comparatively small sized plants, struck from cuttings early in the spring, and that have the wood firm and well matured, are in much better condition for forcing than plants that have been kept continuously under glass. Still better are old specimens that are annually cut back each spring after being forced and encouraged to make growth through the summer. Standard form with bushy heads is the best shape. Manure water should be given to keep up a succession of bloom.

Forcing Her Piano Keys.

Mrs. Brown—This is my little Effie.

Mrs. Smith—I think Effie is such a pretty name!

Little Effie—I don't—I'm awfully sorry I can't change both of my names.

A steam phaeton has appeared in Paris resembling an ordinary phaeton. It carries under the body of the carriage a boiler which cannot explode, with a funnel bent down and discharging the smoke under the back seat.

The Mother Shipton Prophecies.

Were Mother Shipton's prophecies genuine?

Ursula Southeby, or "Mother Shipton," was an English woman who lived near Knaresboro about 500 years ago, and in her own time had a considerable reputation as a witch or prophetess, but which people were not certain. She uttered a great many prophecies, which, are, in the main, unintelligible jumbles of words and can be made to take almost any shade of construction desired. The British museum has a number of collections of her so called prophecies, some of the chap-books containing them dating back 250 years.

Her little was thought of them or for till 1862, when Mr. Charles Hindley issued what he claimed was a reprint of her sayings, and in this edition are found the prophecies about railroads, balloons, iron steamships and gold in California and Australia. The case was investigated by correspondents of the newspapers, and, none of these predictions being found in the old version, the matter was declared to be a forgery. In 1873 Mr. Hindley admitted that he had forged the special predictions mentioned, as well as a number of others, in order to enhance public interest in the Knaresboro' Mole. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Children and Trade.

"Don't the children bother us?" said a Felix street merchant in response to a question. "Oh, a little, of course; but it pays to have patience with them. Once collect the children's trade and you have that of their parents. You remember that schoolmaster who said that he asked his village boys to rule the children, arguing that they ruled their mothers, who in turn ruled their husbands! Well, there is a great deal of truth in that. A great many good retail businesses have been built up by attention to what you might call the children trade.

"They make free with everything about the store, to be sure, and get in your way, or romp, but I tell you it pays to humor them. If you treat them roughly you can scarcely roughly the fact that you lose that family's trade. The youngsters never forget that sort of thing. If you want to rule a good business the safest way is to let the boys understand that they are welcomed only when they have business and no longer. Make them are boss and quiet themselves in that way. Give me a store where the children come in and just act as if they owned it and I'll bet that place is making money."—St. Joseph (Mo.) News.

Not He Was.

"Say, boy!" he called to a lad who was passing the doorway to a dentist's office on Woodward avenue.

"Yes, sir."

"I'd like you to go upstairs and see if the dentist is in."

"Yes, sir. Got the toothache?"

"Just a little—nothing of any consequence. Didn't really have to come down, you know, but thought I would."

"See if he's in, eh?"

"Yes. He won't be in at this hour, I don't suppose, but you can see. Actual pain is trifle, and I suppose I'm foolish enough to pay no attention to it. Just look in and see if he's there, and here's a quarter for you."

The lad ran up and took a look, and the man faced the street and began whistling. In a couple of minutes the messenger stuttered down stairs.

"He isn't in, of course," observed the man, "and I might as well go home. I didn't ex—"

"Oh, but he's in!" interrupted the lad.

"The dickens he is!" shouted the suffering man, and bowing his head against his jaw he began climbing the weary stairs to the sanctuary of horrors.—Detroit Free Press.

Sir Harry Vane's House.

Antiquarians have discovered that the house occupied by Sir Harry Vane while he lived in Boston in 1636-7 is still standing, in good condition and occupied, but not in Boston. It was taken down, removed to Canton early in this century, and may continue to stand there and shelter the common people for another two and a half centuries. Nobody knows how long a wooden house will last, but here is a chance to test the matter. Perhaps it may continue by judicious removals as long as the dwellings of Pompeii. It was built, perhaps, for the Rev. John Cotton, who was a friend of the younger Vane, and took him to his own house when he came to Massachusetts to share the fortunes of the young colony.—Frank Sanborn in Boston Advertiser.

"Benefits of Travel."

It is salutary discipline to travel into foreign lands before setting up for a critic of our own institutions and customs. Indeed only upon an apprenticeship of this sort can aught in praise or dispraise of ourselves worth hearing be said. A traveler makes that though we are an excellent nation of islanders we are not quite the pattern men and women our home slayers are so fond of fa ying. He also learns that we have a.. at stock of prejudices stowed away in the wallet upon which we are accustomed to draw for our virtues.—All the Year Round.

Interesting Feminine Hands.

If you want to see a collection of curious hands, interesting hands, you should use those belonging to the members of the Woman's Press club—hands made in hard pens, hands that have taught themselves to hold pens, hands brimming over with mentality, and hands that have gathered mental strength wherever they went. You need only sit and look at them to get at the book histories of the women, and I can assure you some of them are very interesting.—New York Letter.

Cream of tartar is the tartaric acid of grapes, and may be used in water with sugar as a substitute for grape juice. It is the substitution of minerals and for those of fruits and vegetables that is so injurious to health; for instance, sulphuric acid in wine and vinegar for the natural fruit acid.

Impatient, but Cautious.

It was on a Fourth avenue car that it happened. A snow storm had made the traffic unusually heavy, and the line was running only single cars. The men on the car had all risen but one, and he sat near the stove unmoved. The other side of the car had been filled by ladies, most of whom had been given seats by the prompt courtesy of the men, who now filled the aisle. The ladies were loosely distributed along the seat; one sat sideways, gazing out of the window; a second allowed her child room enough for a good sized man by clambering around with his feet to the floor; a third, dressed in silk, sat as though afraid of the touch of a woman next to her.

A lady entered and looked around for a seat, and there was none. The man all looked at the man by the stove. He was a stout, heavy fellow, growing just a little old. He sat still, apparently unconscious. All the ladies across the aisle looked at him; the lady in silk glared. He didn't move. The lady moved up opposite him in the car and took hold of a strap, and still he sat still.

"Madam," said he at last, cautiously enough, but in a voice plainly heard all through the car, "Madam, I do not feel inclined to give you my seat when the rents of your own are on the opposite side of the car make me move to make room for you."

And maybe there wasn't a shuffle on the other side of the car. The lady in silk jammed up against the plainly dressed woman, the child was hastily deposited in its mother's lap and the woman who gazed out the window saw something to attract her attention straight ahead of her. The lady who was standing and two elderly gentlemen occupied the room made.—Minneapolis Journal.

Editor Earth.

Much has been written about the earth eating tribes of various countries, but it is not generally known that the inhabitants of Pescara, a village in Portland, have for generations eaten a variety of earth found in the neighborhood. It is said that any of them having the house is allowed with a daughter unlesly with earth, therefore, unless he be provided with a supply of the earth. The reason of this is probably the presence of arsenic in the earth, and it is known to possess a fatal influence upon the human constitution.

The fact that Dr. Vogel has found arsenic in it by a cursory examination, but, on the contrary, has detected that it contains about double the quantity of iron found in similar soils from the adjacent Celle, lends plausibility to the view that the pure substance may be an alkaloid. The whole question must be easily settled by a competent chemist, and it is to be hoped that some one will undertake the investigation.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Raising Chickens for the City.

"Chicken raising" is numbered among the most profitable of Long Island's industries. New York city and Brooklyn consume daily about 50,000 chickens and 150,000 eggs. Hence a large proportion of these articles come from New Jersey and inter New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and even Virginia send a good many, but the possibilities for profit have induced a great many people to go into the business, so that there are now probably four or five hundred "ranches" scattered between Sag Harbor and Montauk, on Long Island. Fowls of all kinds being good prices in New York, and a poultry yard would pay as big dividends as sugar after a time. A man can go into the business with very little capital, and it has been found that with about the expense of fowls can make a fortune in a few years.—New York Letter.

No Man Essential to the Life of a Nation.

The geniuses of great men have been furnished with the dust of great men, who at one time or another were considered indispensable. There is altogether too much hero worship in the world, even in this enlightenment age. It is proper to give every man credit for his worth and for his achievements, but no man should be accounted greater than the work he represents, and when he ceases to be greater it is time for us to cast him aside.—Sunshine Trails.

Some Concerns.

"Mamma," asked Bonny Bloomingtor, "why do you preserve eggs?"

"When on earth do you know?"

"I heard you tell Mrs. Garlick about putting eggs in bottles."—West Shore.

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WOMEN AND MICE.

The reason why a woman is afraid of a mouse is a mystery to scientists. It has never been very clearly proven that she is. But some women are undoubtedly so, and it is a fact that mice visit the highest living women and shelter them, even in cities, where the rats and other pests are almost unknown. Instinct, or what is called instinct, is usually more dependable than reason, and the fear of mice is a deep instinct, or at least a transmitted or inherited instinct, or else it is a fear based on experience, or tradition, or disinclination, or some of the prime causes, or by a combination of the two. The reason for the fear of mice is not clear. It is not, perhaps, quite a natural fear, for it is not shared by all women, and it is not shared by children, who are more given to fear than adults, and who are more exposed to mice than are women. It is not a fear that is of very great importance, for it is not a fear that is of very great importance, for it is not a fear that is of very great importance, for it