

after cutting in autumn, the brown, dead, and prickly mass looks badly. The same may be said of Broom; while Spruce and Scotch Fir are better adapted for high shelter than for the purposes of a hedge.

There are many other plants which may be worked into use in an ornamental way with advantage. I should think that *Griselinia littoralis* might do very well: its glossy green leaves of a pale colour are inviting, and in favoured places there is no doubt but it will succeed well. There is also a plant which has been extensively used as a hedge plant by Mr. Ridgeway, of Fairlawn, in this county, and recommended by that gentleman as adapted even for cattle fences in situations where it will stand the winter. It is Osage Orange (*Maclura aurantiaca*), a prickly half-evergreen shrub, of far from a disagreeable appearance, the foliage being bright, shining, and abundant; the only drawback is, its points rarely ripen, and I do not know the effects of a very hard winter upon it. To this list many others might be added; but enough has already been said on hedges of an ornamental character.

HIGH HEDGES FOR SHELTER.—These are of various descriptions, and I think I have seen a Holly hedge, faced on one side, that was little short of 30 feet high; and some Quicksset hedges are higher than that. There are hedges of mixed trees—Elm, Maple, White Thorn, and others, trimmed-up on both sides as shelter to the Hop plant, which are upwards of 40 feet high, and by their appearance seem likely to last a century yet; but I have never seen a high hedge of evergreen Fir trees at all satisfactory—they invariably lose their lower branches, besides which, as a single row, they never look well. The cold and high winds have so much effect on them, that a weather-beaten unhealthy appearance is the result even when not pruned, and very little cutting destroys all the life there is in the lower branches. The hardier deciduous trees had better be used if only one line of some 8 feet or 10 feet in thickness be wanted, and that something like 30 feet high. Some trees by their growth are not suitable. I am not by any means fond of Elder nor Willow. Some of the Poplars also quickly overcome their more useful neighbours; but Oak, Beech, Elm, Maple, and similar trees along with Thorns do very well, and if these be not thick enough, the wild Honeysuckle may be allowed to run up amongst them. I do not think it is advisable to encourage Ivy, it is apt to kill the other trees. But so many things tend to determine the trees that are most advisable, that it is not necessary to follow the subject further.

Before concluding I may say, I have omitted many plants occasionally used as hedgerow-plants, because in the most cases in which they were so employed, it was more in consequence of their accidentally being present than through the wishes of the cultivator. Black Thorn makes a formidable fence against cattle or anything else, but the live shoots are all at the top, and it is far below the White Thorn for general utility; and Willow Sallow, Dogwood, Hazel, Bird Cherry, &c., are only tolerated because others will not grow. But the ornamental list may, doubtless, be much extended, those given being only what I have had experience of. J. RONSON.

CROSS-BREDS OF STRAWBERRIES.

Will any of your correspondents who have attended to the history of the Strawberry, kindly inform me whether any of the kinds now, or formerly, cultivated have been raised from a cross between any of the Woods or Alpines with the Scarlets, Pines, and Chilis? Also, whether any one has succeeded in getting any good from a cross between the Hautbois and any other kind? I am aware that Mr. Williams, of Pitminster, succeeded in getting some sterile hybrids from the Hautbois and Woods; but whether these were ever at all largely propagated, I cannot find out. I am, also, aware that Mr. Knight and Mr. Williams raised many seedlings by crossing Scarlets, Pines, and Chilis; but what I want to know is, whether any one has crossed these three latter kinds with the Wood or Alpine. I should feel greatly indebted to any one who would take the trouble to inform me on this head.—C. DARWIN, *Doves, Bromley, Kent.*

[We shall be obliged by answers being sent to us in reply to this inquiry.—Eus.]

CONSEILLER DE LA COUR PEAR.—We have received a communication from Mr. George Lee, of Clevedon, near Bristol, to say that he is a market-gardener and not a nurseryman as we

stated in our notice of this fruit, and that he received his trees from Mr. Rivers, of Sawbridgeworth. This announcement is necessary, as Mr. Lee informs us that, in consequence of our notice of the fruit and of his name in conjunction with it, he has been besieged with applications for trees of that Pear.

WATERING POTTED PLANTS IN A SUNK FRAME.

I HAVE always found some difficulty in watering crowded pots in a sunk frame without spilling much water among them, or, in the case of using manure water, without letting it touch the foliage. To avoid this difficulty, which I believe is of considerable consequence, I thought of a contrivance this year so simple that I should never have thought it worth your notice had it not been for the following remark of an eminent gardener to whom I mentioned it. He says, "I like your invention so much that I think it is worthy of more prominent notice. Send it to THE JOURNAL OF HORTICULTURE with a drawing." I can only add that if so simple a contrivance be of any use to your correspondents, I am glad to have the opportunity of making some small return for the full and courteous replies I have received to any questions (chiefly on bee-keeping) I may have had occasion to put through your columns.—A. W. B., *The Vicarage.*

A small tin tube about 3 feet long and half an inch diameter, with a funnel at top; to be held in the left hand while the water is poured into it from a jug or small can in the right. Mine is made to fit on to a small watering-pot at A, the rose of which will also fit on at a if required.



BOTTOM HEAT FOR POTTED VINES.

Will you let me know the best way of managing my pot Vines, of which I have about three dozen two years old? I have no bottom heat, but a flue all round the house. Must I put the bottoms of the pots on the bare flue, or must I put a trellis under them? I wish to start them soon.—SAM SLACK.

[A couple of bricks set on the flue would do well for the pots standing on, leaving a space between the bricks. A large saucer on the top of the bricks would be advisable if water was not allowed to stand in it. Such vessels on the flue would also be useful in giving moisture before the Vines were broken.]

GRAFTING ROSES BY THE FIRESIDE.

At page 171, Vol. XXIII, Old Series, of your Journal, Mr. Beaton states that Mr. Ruddock grafted Roses at his own fireside in March. Am I to understand that the Manetti stocks were really grafted while the roots were out of the ground, and do you consider such a safe practice? If so, is March a better season than any time during the late autumn or winter months—say at the present time?—B. W.

[Mr. Beaton repeated the tale from Mr. Ruddock's own account of the experiment. They were Manetti stocks, a lot he bought cheap at a sale. He grafted them by the fireside, and then planted them, and hardly lost one out of a hundred. You may give credit to its being a safe practice. March and April, in our latitude and climate, are the natural season for grafting all deciduous plants; and the autumn, and on to the new year, the most unnatural. That is thus accounted for: In the spring the sap is fast rising, and no time is left for the cuts to dry, but to unite by their edges. In the autumn and winter there is no perceptible rise of sap, or of growth "setting in" for months, and to graft when no means of healing or uniting is provided is just like grafting the wrong end of the stock. But gardeners often turn the autumn into spring, and graft and work accordingly. They cause their Vines to bud and blossom in the duldest months, and the Rose they bud and graft every week the whole year round—that is, they force the plants; and when once the Rose is under that natural impulse, the effort to grow and extend itself, it may be grafted or inarched, layered or budded,