A NEW JERSEY PINE FOREST.

THE illustration upon page 164 represents a pure forest of Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) in Ocean County, New Jersey. It is situated about twelve miles from the sea coast, and forms a part of the extensive and interesting domain which surrounds the Laurel House at Lakewood, to the proprietors of which establishment it belongs.

This forest is interesting from several points of view. It is extremely picturesque and beautiful. It occupies ground which only fifty years ago was employed for farming purposes; and it is one of few forests composed of a single species of tree which can be seen in the Northern States, where a number of different trees are usually associated together in forest growth. The Pines in this Lakewood
forest have an average height of fifty feet, and their trunks an average diameter of ten inches. They stand so close together that grasses and undershrubs cannot survive in their dense unbroken shade. The forest floor is deeply carpeted with moss, however, and altogether this forest reminds one more of one of the planted Pine forests of northern Europe than anything we remember to have seen before in the United States. The rapid and vigorous growth of this young forest upon poor and comparatively worthless lands shows, moreover—and this is its chief interest—the way such lands along the Atlantic seaboard, north of Virginia, can be used to the best advantage. And finally it illustrates the possibility of protecting, by means of a little trouble and foresight, such forests from burning up in the fires which annually rage, unchecked, over great tracts in the New Jersey coast region.

The Pitch Pine is not one of the most valuable Pine trees of the United States. Its wood is coarse grained, full of resin, and not very strong. . . Before southern pine was brought to this market the pitch pine of New Jersey was the only available material in many parts of the State for timbers and flooring; and there are still houses in some counties where floors and floor-timbers are known to have been in constant use for more than a century. But it is for firewood and for charcoal that the pitch pine is most valuable; and the nearness and accessibility of these New Jersey Pine forests to great centres of population give them special importance as sources of fuel supply, which no other forests of this character in the country possess. Much land within three or four hours by rail of this city and of Philadelphia, now utterly unproductive and rapidly deteriorating through the fires which sweep over it every year, can be made highly productive and profitable by means of the Pitch Pine. People who own land of this character will see much to interest and instruct them in these Lakewood forests, and in those in the town of Orleans, on Cape Cod, in Massachusetts.

C.S.S[argent]

THE SIHLWALD.—I.

It was my good fortune recently to pass a month in the Sihlwald, as that portion of the forest-property of the City of Zurich is called, which stretches for some five miles along the narrow valley of the Sihl. It is not often that a forest is so favorably situated both geographically and as to the conditions which determine the value and fertility of timber-lands; and while there are many peculiarities in its management which mark it as distinct from the great body of European forests, it exhibits so full a knowledge of forestry applied to such excellent conditions and so admirable an adaptation of means to ends, that if it fails of being typical of that which is, it may assuredly challenge attention as the illustration of that which ought to be. Further, since during the last fiscal year it yielded to the city a net revenue of more than eight dollars per acre, a short account of it may serve to emphasize the fact, so often lost sight of, that the protection of forests is not an end, but a means, and that the whole question of forestry has a very definite and important financial bearing. It has, therefore, seemed that a few words upon the Sihlwald might not be without interest to the readers

[Garden and Forest 1 (1888): 166]