



**THE SERVICE TREE, A NEGLECTED MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT TREE. (SORBUS  
DOMESTICA L. SEE S. P. I. NOS. 41703 AND 41804.)**

In Italy the sorbo, as this fruit is called, is sold in large quantities by the fruit venders on the streets. Like the European medlar, it is good to eat only when overripe, and even then it has an astringent taste which some people find objectionable. In the old Italian works on agriculture at least six distinct varieties are recognized. They ripen their fruits in September and October, and after pickling these are stored in fruit houses or cellars until overripe. This illustration shows a young tree planted by the French nurseryman, Felix Gillet, in his Barren Hill Nursery, at Nevada City, Cal. From its behavior there it is believed to be capable of cultivation in many places in California. As a tree it is most attractive. (Photographed by David Fairchild, 1902; P1488FS.)