

PLAIN HINTS ON FRUIT GROWING.—IV.

LITTLE ECONOMIES AND EXPERIENCES.



ONE of the greatest elements to forward the fruit-growing interest is *success*! It is a late-coined adage that "nothing succeeds like success," and to this we may add "nothing *encourages* as much as success." *How to succeed* should be the theme of every one who engages in fruit-growing, and this implies the question of economy and good management. The article in August HORTICULTURIST of last year, headed "Small Orchards," is very pat on the economic theme, and deserves a hearty, practical endorsement by all who expect to succeed in the work of fruit-growing. I once inspected a fruit garden of ten acres, back of the mountain near Montreal, from which the owner told me he realized a net profit of \$1,000 per year on an average. I call that a *success*, and it has encouraged me very much in my little efforts in the fruit industry. Of course this garden was managed carefully on the scale of economy. There was no expenditure that was not profitably utilized, and no waste allowed; everything being done with an eye to profit and safe return. Three years ago, I read a little work called "Ten Acres Enough," which practically illustrated what might be profitably realized on a ten-acre farm with right management. But as I believe in theory and practice going hand in hand, I will not advance anything but what I have proven practically.

As "economies and experiences" afford much range of detail, one feels hardly "up to the occasion" in doing the theme ample justice, but as every one in any particular line of effort, can add *something* to the common stock of experience to encourage his fellows in the same line, however meagre that experience may be, it behooves each one to add his mite for the common interest. Every one whose heart is in his work, will devise and improvise something that he has never seen, done nor heard of, and if he makes a note of it for the benefit of others, he aids in helping up the interest which cheers and encourages many besides himself.

Last year, that I might not lose the use of the land I wished to set out in strawberries, first planted it with corn in hills three feet each way, setting three strawberry plants between each two hills of corn.

The plants did well in the shade of the corn, and the hillage of the corn suited that of the berry plants; and in the fall the corn was cut for fodder and carried off and "stooked" on the margin of the plat. Later on, after the frost is in the ground, a clip with a narrow hoe will cut off the stub that remains of the corn stalk, and the plat is ready to cover for winter protection. I covered this year with brush, both evergreen and deciduous, which I find keeps on the snow late, also keeps it from caking down into ice on the plants while it is melting, if a freezing time comes before it is all away.