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Notes and Comments.

A VISIT FROM PROF. BURRILL.—It was with great pleasure that we entertained the celebrated microscopist, Prof. Burrill, of the Illinois State University, Champaign, Ill., for a day at Grimsby just after the close of the meeting of the A.A.A.S. at the halls of the University of Toronto. He is engaged under the U. S. Government in investigating the cause of the peach yellows, and should he succeed in defining the nature of this mysterious disease, we may next hope for some remedy. We visited several of the peach orchards of Grimsby, in each of which specimens of diseased trees were only too easily found, and he took away samples of the wood, fruit and roots of affected trees for careful microscopic study, promising that if any good should result, he would communicate it for the benefit of Canadian peach growers, through this journal.

It was a privilege to look through his powerful instrument and see the minute microbes which cause the pear blight, mounted from diseased trees in our own orchard, and to listen to his explanation of their

mode of operations. He also showed us the microbe of the peach yellows, but says its habits are much the more mysterious, for while the blight microbe has the power to make its way by a kind of corrosion from cell to cell of the pear tree, no way for such progress of the former has as yet been discovered, and, notwithstanding this, it is found in all parts of a diseased tree.

We asked him if there could be any mistake in the statement that the microbe was the cause of the pear-blight. He said there was not; he had isolated some of them from the tree, and had caused the parasitic organisms to grow and increase in numbers, on a certain prepared gelatine, in a closed glass tube. He had then applied some of these microbes to a perfectly healthy tree, and blight was the result.

In reply to our inquiry as to best time for cutting off blighted limbs of the pear tree so as to prevent its spreading, he said that the microbe most frequently found entrance through the blossoms, and that the trees should be carefully examined at that time and all blighted blossoms cut away before the mischief