

pose, Mrs. Hoodless also brought before us the objects of the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural International Union of England, which are as follows:—

1. To form a bond between women in all countries who are engaged, whether directly or indirectly, as employers or employed, or as working amateurs, in

(a) Farming, dairying, poultry-keeping or bee-keeping;

(b) Fruit or flower growing for profit;

(c) Laying-out of grounds, forestry and the management of estates.

2. To circulate useful information, and to compare the methods of different countries and districts.

3. To advise as to training, and to make known openings for obtaining employment, and for the disposal of produce. Members can also consult each other:—For example, one intending to settle in Canada could write to a member here, and get information at first hand.

4. To endeavour to secure an adequate rate of payment for women employed in any of the indicated lines of work. To uphold the highest standard of work.

Those desirous of joining the union as members must send in their names to the honorary secretary, stating in what branch they are engaged, and enclosing the names and addresses of two referees as to their qualifications.

The rates of subscription for such members are: 2s. entrance fee, and 2s. 6d. per annum. All employers, amateurs and others interested in the objects of the union, are classed as honorary members, and pay 5s. per annum. Donors of £5 are life members. *Subscriptions are due on January 1st.*

Membership entitles to advice from the executive committee; to the receipt of such papers or reports as are issued periodically; to advice as to the disposal of produce; and to assistance in finding employment.

The papers circulated by the union will contain lists of members, and of appointments obtained by

women, articles by experts in various countries, correspondence, reports of the honorary secretary, and matters of general interest bearing on subjects coming within the scope of the union.

The council meets twice a year, the executive committee at its own option. The latter is re-elected annually. New members of council can only be elected at council meetings, and must be duly nominated and seconded.

A general meeting is held annually in May or June, in London.

Non-members corresponding with the honorary secretary or executive committee, without any intention of joining the union, must pay 1s. fee.

Mrs. Hoodless proposes that each of our affiliated Horticultural Societies, and each Woman's Institute be allowed to take one membership for the society, thus bringing the membership in touch with the union, and in sympathy with its work; and forming an organization for receiving the publications and the visiting lecturers of the union.

This might result in the direct sale of produce, properly packed, by members of the societies in Canada to members of the union in England, or to trade with persons recommended by those members.

We wish Mrs. Hoodless every encouragement in her work. She is a charming speaker, her addresses are listened to by every one with the greatest attention and interest, and we hope to induce the Department of Agriculture at Toronto to send her out to address all our affiliated societies next season.

## ADVANCES IN PLANT BREEDING.

IT IS astonishing how much there has been said and how much there has been written during the past twenty years on the subject of hybridizing of fruits and of plant breeding in general. It is also surprising in the face of this that such small advances have been made in the way of systematic production of improved varieties of fruits. Aside from the great work of Burbank

of California, the work of some other plum specialists in the south, and the monument which Rogers raised up to himself when he originated that remarkable array of hybrid grapes, there has after all been very little done in this interesting and fascinating field. However, it is cheering to note that now and then some one does work a period in the work by the production of a fruit