

and the palate of buyers any better. The fruit is always fair, even in size, and handsome in form and color. As regards keeping, it comes into eating about the first of January, or somewhat sooner sometimes, and I never had any difficulty in keeping them sound until the end of March, and often till the end of April. Further south they do not keep so well.—DR HOSKINS, in *The Home Farm*.

#### THE MRS. GARFIELD STRAWBERRY.

One of the most vigorous growing plants in our Strawberry trial-beds is this new variety. The plants were received too late last spring to perfect any berries; yet, to judge from the results under so adverse conditions, we were very favorably impressed with its desirable qualities.

It is a seedling of the Crescent, raised by Mr. Matthew Crawford, of Ohio, and is now introduced by Hale Brothers, of South Glastonbury, Conn., who describe it as follows:

"Growth of plant healthy and vigorous, resembling its parent, the Crescent, with broader foliage, however, and not making more than one-fourth as many runners; leaves clear and bright, standing drought and frost without injury; flowers perfect, with abundant, well developed stamens; fruit stalks of medium length, stout, and usually branching. Very prolific, equal to the Crescent in quantity of fruit per acre; and while not setting quite as many berries as that variety, they average much larger and hold their size better to the end of the season. Form conical, with slight neck; color, glossy bright scarlet. Its flavour is rich, sweet, and delicious; and while not equal to the Wilson in shipping and keeping qualities, it is much firmer than any other of the very productive sorts."—*American Garden*.

#### CONCERNING LEAVES.

Leaves have a peculiar and special share in the work of vegetation; every leaf is constructed of an intricate network of "veins," running through a soft pulpy substance. This framework is composed of woody fibres, its purpose being to support and distend the softer parts of the leaf. Accompanying these fibres through all their branchings, and usually running a little beyond their extremities into the green tissue, are minute tubes or vessels. Follow these back to the midrib of the leaf, and we find that they continue still farther, connecting with the circulatory system of the stem, which in turn extends down to the roots. This line of vessels, therefore, provides a direct course for the passage of the fluids absorbed by the roots, to the most remote portions of the leaves. One of the most important functions of the leaves is the collecting of carbonic acid gas from the air, and by the action of their green coloring matter, to combine it with the elements of the sap to form the constituents of growth. These compounds containing carbon form about fifty per cent. of the bulk of the plant, so we see that the leaves are really the most active portions of the vegetable organism, collecting fully one-half the food, and combining it with that furnished by the roots into the complex constituents of the perfectly developed plant. The chemical processes, which occur in the leaf, are too complicated for discussion here, but its anatomy, the utility of all its parts and the harmony with which they perform their work, are easily understood, and furnish us one of the best examples of the detailed perfection of nature's work.—W. E. STONE, in *American Agriculturist*.