

NUT GROWING FOR PROFIT.

AT a recent meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a paper was read by F. M. Bartram, on this subject.

We give an extract, treating of the chestnut :—“From a commercial standpoint the chestnut, for this vicinity, seems to me by far the most promising of nuts. We know the tree thrives and bears here, which are important factors already established. The market takes all the American chestnuts, and many thousand pounds besides which are imported from Italy and France. They are mostly sold along the streets, much as peanuts are. Consider the vast increase possible in this line, and the far greater demand when they become as frequently used for desserts and relishes as their merits deserve. Mark the frequency with which the chestnut appears in newer cookbooks for stuffings, dressings, etc., and remember that chestnuts are even now found with vegetables upon that class of American tables that soon have innumerable imitators ; and prepare for this demand, which is small, indeed, compared with the possible and probable consumption when chestnuts are dried, ground into flour, and become the staple article of diet that they have so long been in southern Europe. Not only chemistry, but the experience of generations, has demonstrated the fitness of chestnut meal for human food.

Chestnut trees do best on high, well-drained land with open sub-soil ; such hillsides as abound in New England. Stoney land is no objection ; chestnuts do not bruise in falling as plums would. Once established, a chestnut orchard continues in profit for decades or even centuries. No protection and very little pruning are required. No large fertilizer

bills encroach upon profits ; their roots go deep into the ground and get fertility far below the reach of annual crops. An established chestnut orchard will yield as many bushels per acre as corn, and with little more than the expense of gathering. Chestnuts brought \$14 per bushel at the first of last season for the best sorts. These fell as the season advanced to \$12 and \$10, and to \$7 and \$8 for poorer sorts. If farmers should get such prices for corn they would raise nothing else, one would think.

Chestnuts do not require constant attention and the gathering can be done by cheap labor. They are not perishable and can be stored or sent great distances to get a good market price. Chestnuts do not need expensive packing boxes for shipping.

There are three distinct strains of chestnuts, the American, European and Japan. The American nuts are small, usually fuzzy, and of the best quality. The European trees have given us a strain of very popular chestnuts, including Paragon, Ridgely, Scott and a host of other good kinds. In Japan there are three kinds ; the largest and best is being planted here ; the choicest seedlings are named and are propagated by grafting. The trees bear when very young and are good croppers of nuts of the largest size, although not unusually of the finest flavor.

Many are deterred from embarking in nut culture because they think they have to wait long for returns, but the fact is you do not have long to wait.

In conclusion, let me call attention again to the timber value of nut-bearing trees. I am still more anxious that their ornamental properties be remembered, and especially by the owner of a home