

Promological Society held its meeting the same week in Philadelphia. The season was too early, also, for grapes, and the location was not very favourable to getting up a fine show of fruits and flowers. Floral Hall was a farce. But a good reputation from last year hung over it, and it literally took in a crowd who made the circuit of the tent, vainly looking for some exponent of the Horticultural capacity of the Empire State, and came out with disgust clouding their faces, and censure falling from their lips.

There was a better display of flowers, however, than fruit. The collections of James Vick, Ellwanger & Barry, C. W. Crossman, and Mrs. J. T. Van Namee, were the best in flowers. Grapes were shown by the Pleasant Valley Wine Co., and J. W. Clarke, of Naples, in quite large collections, but the fruit was immature.

#### DOMESTIC HALL.

One of the novelties here was an iron plane, which seems to possess many advantages over those of wood. The face is fluted parallel to its length, which prevents too great adhesion to the wood it is cutting. The throat is made adjustable for fine or course work. It looks like a fine improvement on ordinary planes.

A cheap tool for cutting glass was shown, consisting of a small steel cutting wheel, fixed in a handle similar to those holding diamonds for the same use. It worked well, and is claimed to be durable, as it is cheap. The idea of using a small revolving steel wheel for cutting glass in place of a diamond, is novel.

Here was also a patented device for the application of the dry earth system to commodos. The simple application of dry loam to human ordure, destroys all unpleasant and noxious vapors, and so renders it a powerful and available fertilizer. Devices to effect this application in convenient and certain ways are patentable, but no one need hesitate to avail themselves of the principle of thus deodorizing night-soil. A few barrels of dry road dust, if it be not sharp sand, and a shallow box that is easily emptied, are all actually required. If this principle of saving night-soil were adopted in the towns and country, it would result in adding millions of dollars to the value of the manurial resources of this country, as well as promoting an infinite amount of health and comfort.

#### FARM IMPLEMENTS.

The department of Farm Implements was likewise deficient in variety and interest. The popular reapers and mowers were out, however, and the most novel and important improvement shown was an attachment to Johnston's Self-Raking Reaper, which enables two men to bind the grain as fast as it is cut. It was not brought out until the last oat harvest, but it worked well at all trials. It is merely a platform attachment, with a supporting castor wheel and a table, where two men ride and bind. The rake throws the cut grain on this platform, instead of the ground, and an arm shoves it into a shallow, wide trough in front of the binders. This attachment does not change the machine as a self-

raker in the least; it can be quickly detached, and the ordinary reaper is left. The draft is increased, making it an easy three or very light four horse machine when the attachment is in use.

Among the implements for cultivating the soil, a fine set of steel and cast-iron ploughs, shown by the Ames Manufacturing Co., was noticeable. Also a plough having an adjustable, revolving mold-board, for which a diminished friction and better pulverization of soil were claimed. The Nishwits Harrow, consisting of a V shaped frame, supported on revolving discs of iron, with seat for driver, suggested something easier and better than the old-fashioned sort.

Thomas' Smoothing Harrow and Broadcast Weeder, consisted of planks hinged together so as to be adjustable to uneven surfaces, the teeth being large sized nails, driven in with a backward inclination. It is claimed that corn may be harrowed with this until nearly a foot high without injury, but the weeds will be destroyed if the harrowing be done often enough. It is also good for wheat in the spring, and to smooth and pulverize the surface already moderately mellow. Many a farmer might take a hint from this, and manufacture a very good tool for many purposes, by hinging together a few pieces of plank, and driving in plenty of large nails.

A very perfect implement is Foster's Broadcast Sower, for plaster, grain and grass seeds. Since it was last shown a harrow attachment has been added, and it now sows grass seed and grain, and harrows at the same time.

Another novelty worthy the careful attention of farmers was Reed's Three-Story Shelter Sheep Fold. Sheep are lodged and fed in three stories, thus greatly economizing space and roofing. When built in sections, each being fourteen feet wide and eight feet long, it is portable, and may be set up in any desirable part of the farm. The plan was suggested to the inventor by the necessity of sheltering stock after his barns were destroyed by fire.

#### GRAIN, DAIRY PRODUCTS, VEGETABLES, ETC.

The show in the Dairy Hall was quite meager. The samples of Grain were only tolerable, and as for Vegetables, on returning to Rochester I passed a corner grocery which had a collection of varieties that merited a first prize if the one in Dairy Hall was "worthy of mention." A sample of oats, under the name of "White Probester," very much resembled what was sent out last spring from the Department of Agriculture, under the name of "Excelsior." The first were distributed by the Department in 1866, and were said to have been received from Hamburg, Germany; the latter were imported from England. They are white, plump, the straw tall, coarse and strong. The grain grows on long arms on all sides of the head. The exhibitors claimed a yield this year of ninety-three bushels per acre of grain, weighing thirty-nine pounds per bushel. They were also said to stand up when common varieties, of less height, lodged.