Garden and Orchard.

The Wonderful Peach.

A new variety of peach, which originated in New Jersey, is described in the *Orchard and Garden*. It is a large, yellow-fleshed, freestone variety, ripening in New Jersey the second week in October, its late ripening making it particularly valuable. It is claimed to be an annual bearer. It is called "Wonderful," and is regarded as a boon to the fruit growers.

Are Sprayed Fruits Poisonous?

In our rambles among numerous fruit gardens, we have again seen great injury done by the coddling-moth; in fact in some of them fully one-half of the fruit had been injured by this insect. Although the majority of the owners of such gardens seemed to know about the benefits of spraying with Paris green at the time the fruit is about the size of a marble, yet they were afraid to apply it, fearing that the poison, which killed the grub, might also kill the person consuming the ripe fruit. This fear is, however, ungrounded, as the poisons will be found in the tree long before the apple ripens.

The following extract from the Michigan Agricultural College Speculum will add force to the above statement, and will, we hope, convince even the most cautious or skeptical person on this point:—

The antipathy of many farmers and fruit growers to the use of poisons for preventing the ravages of insects amounts almost to a prejudice. Though spraying has been practised for years with beneficial results, objections are still made that it is unsafe, and that it is injurious to trees and fruit. If trees are sprayed too often during the same season, not at the right time, or with too strong a solution, the foliage and fruit may be injured; but even in these cases the ripened fruit may be eaten with impunity, so far as danger from poison is concerned. The insecticides most commonly used in spraying fruit trees are Paris green and London purple, the poison in both of which is the pentoxide of arsenic (As203).

Analysis of both fruit and leaves of apple trees were made about five weeks after spraying. The trees had been sprayed from one to three times with London purple solution; strength, one pound to 100 gallons of water. The average single application per tree was 1½ gallons, containing 10,500 grains of the poison. Assuming the number of leaves of the average apple tree to be 125,000 (a low estimate), then each leaf would receive .084 grain, and if all remained, 50 leaves, the average number taken for analysis, would contain 4.2 grains, or with three applications 12.6 grains. Repeated trials with Marsh's Test, which will easily detect 1-5000 of a grain revealed not the slightest trace of arsenic.

A late bulletin from the Ohio Experiment Station contains the result of an experiment in spraying cherry trees. The solution, ½ lb. London purple to 50 gallons of water, was applied three and four times. Analysis of two quarts of ripe cherries from these trees showed no trace of arsenic.

As soon as the leaves fall from grape vines they may be trimmed. The trimming may be done at any time afterwards until the sap flows next spring.

Poultry.

Poultry at the Western Fair.

The exhibit in this department was not so large as we have seen at this Fair, but the quality was above that of any previous show in London, except the poultry show of last January. Dorkings were very fine. Polands, fine, but some of the classes not large in numbers. Plymouth Rocks, one or two fine pair, but, on the whole, only fair. This breed seems on the wane since the advent of white Plymouth Rocks. Dark Brahmas were few in number. In old birds the cocks were only passable, but the hens very fine. Light Brahmas, fair to medium. Cochins, in the various classes, good. The young white birds were very young and small, but promise well. Partridge, old birds very fine; young, only fair. Buffs, good—old and young. Black, the same. Houdans, very fine. This most useful variety seems to be even less popular than in previous years. This is decidedly unfortunate as they are a very useful bird, and as a barnyard fowl are unsurpassed by very few breeds. Langshans, as usual, in large numbers and good quality. Laced Wyandottes, young, were shown in large numbers, some very fine, and vice versa; old birds decidedly inferior. This valuable breed seems to baffle the fancier more than any other, the beautiful wing being hard to obtain with uniformity. The bird that has breast pencilling correct is almost sure to be too dark on the back and saddle; and many fine pullets when they mature make inferior hens, usually getting lighter on the breast and darker on the saddle. Some fine white Wyandottes were shown, and, as they are essentially the same bird except color, they will doubtless to a very great extent supersede the Laced variety. Those who fancy a white variety, cannot fail to admire these beautiful birds. The first pair of Golden Wyandottes ever exhibited in London were shown here. These, it must not be supposed, came from the Silver Laced variety, as they are of a different make-up and not in any way connected with them, deriving their name from the fact that the feathers are, or at least should be, livid, same as the original Wyandotte, except the centres are a golden bay instead of white. Whether they will be of any value as a breed remains to be demonstrated, as they are scarcely before the public as yet, although admitted to the standard of excellence—or as it will in future be called, the "standard of perfection" at the revision last winter.

White Plymouth Rocks are a new variety, and, like the white Wyandottes are likely to supersede their parents, being equally as profitable, and being a solid color are much easier bred—true to feather.

Games were shown in large numbers, as usual some very fine ones in most of the various classes. White and brown Leghorns in fair numbers and of very good quality. Old Spanish in bad shape, but some fair birds; young birds very nice. Black Minorcas magnificent, although the best cock was in very bad feather, but was of grand form and station also, but hen magnificent. This pair were two of a trio, costing in England one hundred dollars, with an additional twenty dollars for transportation here. Hamburgs good in all classes. The Bantam was well represented. Turkeys, ducks and geese were also well represented, the prizes going to very fair birds in almost every instance.

The poultry building is a credit to the city, and is said to be the best building on the continent,—built exclusively for poultry, certainly it is the best in Canada. But as the days go by and our people awaken (as they are beginning to do) to the importance of the poultry industry, we hope to see more good buildings for this purpose, and not, as is very often the case at present, the fowls given the poorest building on the ground—in some instances these are called main buildings, though good for no other purpose, and unfit for poultry.

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY.

The Most Economical and Profitable Management of Fowls.

BY J. W. BARTLETT.

To attain the best results with fowls, we must have, first, a good house; second, a breed suited to our requirements; and third, must feed properly and give the requisite care. Accordingly, we will first consider

THE HOUSE.

The chief requirements are warmth, a floor as nearly dry at all times as possible, and proper ventilation. The amount of room necessary for fowls in confinement is four square feet per head. This is sufficient for all sizes of fowls, as the smaller ones are so much more active, they require as much room as the larger varieties A board floor is preferable at all times, being dry and easily cleaned, and not liable to become tainted or foul. If concrete floors are used they should be covered two inches deep with dry muck or chaff, or some other substance that will absorb the moisture. This should be removed and replaced as often as it gets foul or damp, which will be longer or shorter according to the number of birds in a given area of floor. The perches should not be above twenty to twenty-four inches from the ground or floor, or better still, place a board twenty inches in width along the wall, and have the perches nailed on four inch pieces, and laid on it loose, so they can be moved when cleaning the board or shelf. To facilitate cleaning, the shelf should be copiously sprinkled with dry muck, road dust or some other absorbent. Where fowls are confined in the house continuously, this shelf will catch two-thirds of the droppings, as the birds occupy the perch much of the daytime, besides the night.

THE BREED

must be selected to suit the requirements of the breeder or poulterer. In the case of the average farmer, it is not well to select especially for eggs or table fowl, but a combination of both. Just here we would call attention to a fact not generally known, or at least not published, viz., that the non-setting varieties lay white eggs, and setting varieties brown. In the best markets brown eggs are preferred, in some places bringing five to ten cents per dozen more than white ones; on the other hand, in markets where quantity, not quality, wins, some of the white eggs, such as Black Spanish, sell for the most money. It accordingly follows that the breed must be selected according to the market; but, as before stated, a general purpose bird will, in most cases, give the best results.

FEED AND CARE

really amount to more than the breed, as no bird will pay if not well fed and cared for; while almost any breed will yield a fair return if they are. For young chicks there is nothing better