

chard Soils." And there were demonstrations—always intensely interesting—in pruning, grafting, packing, etc.

The president's address resumed the work of the year, and pointed out the needs of the times. He wants co-operation as a necessity here where orchards are small and mixed; a subsidized line of steamers to Britain; uniformity in packages (the convention adopted the 10 x 11 x 20 box); registration for tree sellers and grafters, and better transportation, with lower rates by rail and water. He dilated on the value of the domestic market too, and advocated the jamming, pulping, evaporating of inferior fruit. The matter of central councils initiated here was further advanced in details.

The president and executive were heartily thanked for the services rendered in the

past, and the onus of office placed again on their shoulders, the government, being asked, by special resolution, to make some attempt to recompense them. Replying, as president, I acknowledged my deep obligation to the association for the great honor conferred upon me so persistently, and promise faithful service, although some one else might more worthily preside over its destinies. The only new name on the board is that of Edward Bayfield, Esq., a past president.

Everything points to a good year for horticulture here. We extend our best wishes to our Ontario co-workers, and hope that every movement of our associations may be upward and onward for Canada.

A. E. BURKE.

Alberton, P. E. I.

## FIRST FLOWERS OF SPRING

**H**OW many know that one's own home yard can become a wondrous spectacle long before the shady covert of the woods sends forth the wild bloom? So early as the first of March, or even the last of February, we welcome the dainty Snow-drop, modestly drooping its dainty cups, even while the snow lies heaped in shady nooks near at hand. Then the Crocus, of various colors, puts forth a plea for recognition. Among the earliest blooming varieties of these bulbs are the small yellow with black stripes, quite unique. Then the large white, pure large yellow, purple, and a novelty among them is a certain red-blooming variety with slender, pointed flower-cups, distinct from the others. Then comes, almost at the same time, our Glory-of-the-Snow, a dainty white and blue flower only

lately introduced. But chief among these spring beauties, and held as prime favorites, comes the marvellous bloom of a whole forest of Scillas. Then, indeed, does summer seem to be upon the way, when the bees are wild with delight, and the blue and white-mystery looks up laughingly and demands whether there was ever anything half so sweet or winsome, just at home. Borders of these are very attractive for the garden beds or set in little groups in the midst of the sod upon the lawn, where they do quite as well as elsewhere, and are sure to surprise somebody. They seed themselves, and increase very rapidly, and will bloom all through April and May. It is well worth the trial of flower lovers to invest in these earliest of spring flowers, so easy of culture and so delightful.—*Pick's Magazine*.