

on the question. His opinion was that the varieties that paid best in his locality were the Early Canada, the New Dominion, the Sharpless, and the Crescent Seedling. He had some new varieties which were very promising. Some of Arnold's, he thought, would be very good for market. The Arnold's Pride and Bright Ida were very promising. The Glou Dale was a good late bearer, probably as good as the Kentucky. Mr. Huntsberger said the Wilson's Albany was the standard with him till last year. He thought well of the New Dominion and Kentucky. He would recommend the Early Canada and the New Dominion for market purposes. Mr. Morse thought the Captain Jack would outlast any. The Wilson, the Captain Jack, and the Crescent, he thought as most profitable. Mr. Arnold was in favour of the Mary Fletcher and thought it should be cultivated; perfectly satisfactory in every respect. No one would eat a Wilson after tasting a Mary Fletcher. Everybody admits the Mary Fletcher needed no fertilizer. The Alpha was the earliest. The Maggie and Bright Ida were capital berries for shipping purposes. Mr. Bucke said that in Ottawa the Arnold's Pride and New Dominion were most esteemed. Mr. Beale found nothing grow so well or pay better than the Wilson's Albany. The President spoke in favour of the Crescent Seedling and the Wilson's Albany. The former went into the market earlier and brought a higher price. He had never had a good crop off the New Dominion.

PEARS FOR MARKET.

Mr. Gott favoured the Bartlett. Mr. Gott spoke highly of the Flemish Beauty, and of the Louise Bonne de Jersey, and Clapp's Favourite. The latter was a combination of the Bartlett and Flemish Beauty. Mr. Orr had a large pear orchard, and he thought the Flemish Beauty paid better than the Bartlett, though the latter brought better prices in the market. Mr. Willard said there was a very great difference in regard to the profitableness of varieties of pears, and to the kinds that are most liable to blight. The cause of the peach yellows, if it is ever ascertained, will be found to be the same as that of the pear blight. He thought that the nearer we could keep to the Seedling the greater immunity from blight would be obtained and the greater productiveness attained. The Seckel is a pear near to the Seedling. He had never seen the Doctor Reeder blight. The Sterling is a pear which he had found never to have blighted in Michigan. The Rutter he had never known to blight. Mr. Woodward had an orchard of 4,700 to 4,800 trees. They were mostly of the Duchess variety, to which he applied a compost of salt and phosphate or ashes. He thought this a prevention of blight, not a remedy.

NEW VARIETIES OF POTATOES.

Mr. Bucke knew a party who had planted one pound of Dempsey variety which had yielded eighty-one pounds of excellent flavour. Mr. Wellington spoke highly of the White Elephant variety. Mr. Beale had compared the Dempsey and the Early Rose varieties. He had planted them side by side. Dry weather had affected both, but the former were a fair crop while the latter were a poor one. He had decided to plant in future the Dempsey. Mr. Morris favoured the White Elephant. Mr. Bucke believed that no potato came to stay. They would all run out in time. The President, in his remarks, stated that the Dempsey was a seedling of his own, a cross between the Early Rose and Early Goodrich. It never attained a great size, but was smooth, the eyes near one end, and a good cropper. He also stated that it was easy of cultivation, as the stalks generally grew straight upward.

FARM PUPILS.

Of all descriptions of student life to which the well-to-do youth of England are consigned, that of the "farm pupil" stands by itself. If an exact balance of the good and evil that have been acquired by the thousands of young gentlemen who, in the last twenty years, have been committed by fond parents or harassed guardians to the care of British farmers could be struck, I think the result would be a very practical demonstration of the inefficacy of this absurd system. The farmer, good soul, is in no way to blame. Without the experience of the schoolmaster or the tutor, without the recognised position of the professional rulers of youth, whose authority is at any rate never questioned by their subjects, and whose life's work is the discipline of youths such as they for the most part have been, he can hardly be regarded as responsible. When it is considered, too, what an immense proportion of unpromising subjects are placed in the hands of these agriculturists, we are inclined to the opinion, regarding it solely from their point of view, that the £100 or £200 which helps to tide over their difficulties, or to meet their rent, is so often well earned, for the domestic discomfort to which they are put. What is to be done with Tom? or where on earth shall we send Dick? are problems that are often solved by new-born yearnings in the breasts of these young gentlemen for a country life. Visions of an existence in which books have no place work on their imaginations till they persuade themselves that agriculture is their destiny. Tom is a capital shot, and Dick is a first-class rider. Outdoor life is evidently

what Heaven intended them for. Vague ideas of a sort of country gentleman existence haunt their fancy. A future composed of unlimited field sports, varied by an occasional ride round a farm, or a spin in a dogcart to market, takes possession of their brain, and the result is a letter to Mr. A. of Lincolnshire, Mr. B. of Yorkshire, or Mr. C. of East Lothian, who have made the taking of pupils their specialty, in which the fond parent, entrusting the boy to the care of either of these celebrities, hopes that he will give him "a thorough instruction in all the details of practical agriculture;" and probably adds that the lad "has been accustomed to spend a great part of his holidays with an uncle who lives in the country, and is no novice in such matters."

It is, in the first place, the vagueness of the study, and the consequent inability of all but its older or more seriously minded devotees to take hold of it, that constitute the absurdities which so often surround its pursuit. In the second place, it is the immense proportion whose future lives are not benefited in the smallest degree by their residence in an English farmhouse, even supposing they tread with unwearied diligence those monotonous rounds that constitute the duty of the conscientious farm pupil. The article clerk in time becomes the full-blown lawyer. The lads that throng the great engineering establishments of the North generally live to write C. E. after their names. The theological student in due time figures in the clergy list; but that great array of youth which is annually classed under the heading of agricultural students, what becomes of it in after life? In the palmiest days of British agriculture not 10 per cent. became British farmers. The limited demand for land-agents would not give employment to 5 per cent. of what we may in courtesy call the graduates of such a course, even supposing that such a demand as there is supplied itself solely through these channels. A great number, it is true, emigrate; and, indeed, by some astounding process of reasoning on the part of British parents, are snatched prematurely from the discipline and social advantages of school and college, and, with a view to their future success on the prairies of Minnesota or the ranches of Texas, are turned loose for a couple of years in the not very elevating atmosphere of a pupil-frequented farmhouse, to study from the back of a horse or the top rail of a gate a highly artificial system of agriculture, a recollection of which is more likely to be a positive drawback to them rather than otherwise in the career to which they are destined. It would be hard to imagine any mode of filling up this interval in the case of the latter