

THE NEW SOIL GOSPEL.

Vanslyke, of Cornell, called attention to Bulletin 22, recently issued by the Bureau of Soils, in which it is claimed that nearly all soils contain sufficient plant food for all purposes and for all time to come; that, therefore, the addition of fertilizers is not so much required as such physical conditions as shall make available the plant food already in the soil. The great object of the orchardist, therefore, should be to so control the soil moisture by careful cultivation and otherwise, that it shall be in a condition to nourish the plant. It is claimed that the effect of such cultivation is more effective in the growth and fruitfulness of orchards than the application of fertilizers.

Prof. Vanslyke was not prepared to accept this teaching, neither was Mr. Jordan, director of Geneva Exper. Station. It was entirely too revolutionary.

PRIZES FOR BEST FRUIT FARMS.

Over ten years ago Mr. Geo. B. Ellwanger had made a gift to the society of \$1,000, the interest to be used in giving prizes for the best kept orchards in New York State. The committee reported having visited the orchards in competition, and had decided upon giving the first prize of \$40 to Mr. Woodward Hopkins, near Lewiston, and the second of \$20 to Mr. N. Cook, of South Byron, N. Y.

Mr. Hopkins' case was remarkable. He already had a bearing orchard, when he bought this 100-acre farm to grow grain and cattle upon and to furnish manure for his fruit farm. He paid \$36 an acre for it. Then wishing to interest his son in fruit growing and farming, he had set out on it 16,000 pear trees. Last year these had given him 35,000 baskets of fruit, and had been the means of convincing the son that farming and fruit growing was the best business in which he could engage.



FIG. 2730. W. A. MCKINNON.

Mr. W. A. McKinnon, B. A., Toronto University, Graduate-in-law at Osgoode Hall, Chief of the Fruit Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, has in charge the working out of the Fruit Marks Act. He was at our meeting at Leamington, where his experience gained by a prolonged stay among the great apple markets of Great Britain was of especial service in our discussions. In an excellent paper recently contributed by him to the *Farmers' Advocate*, London, he gives the following:

Three Essential Conditions of Success in Fruit Growing

(1) Such orchard management as will yield the maximum of clean fruit of good quality, and such handling as will reduce to a minimum the damage to mature fruit.

(2) Such a system of storage as will enable us to tide over short seasons of congestion, and to slightly lengthen the selling season for tender fruits.

(3) Such packing as will enable us to put up our fruit in handsome and attractive form, and to offer it for sale in uniform substantial packages, of known capacity, each package containing only one grade of fruit.