

The number for June opens, we regret to find, with an article entitled "Shall this paper be continued another year?" We had hoped that there could be no question whatever of its continuance, but the editors state that owing to the present high price of paper and labour, they cannot undertake its publication for another year unless they have some reasonable assurance that it will be self-sustaining. All they require is that they should obtain at least 5000 subscribers, at fifty cents per annum,—a by no means unreasonable demand when we consider that they now distribute *gratis* nearly double that number of copies. Surely all those who have been thus receiving the paper for nothing during the current year, must feel themselves bound in honour to pay the trifling sum required to keep it up for the future. As the Editors very justly say, "If the information imparted by the paper is not worth the small sum of fifty cents a year, it is not worth anything, and it is sheer folly for any one to expect the Committee to continue its publication, which is of no benefit whatever to them, at their own expense, for the benefit of those to whom the information is valuable." They, therefore, request that all who wish to subscribe for a copy for the second year, commencing with October 1866, should forward their names and addresses as soon as possible, but they do not require the subscription to be sent till the first number is received.

We trust that many of our readers will join in subscribing to this valuable little paper; they can rest assured that they will be well repaid for doing so. The numbers that have been already published contain many articles of great usefulness, among which we would mention particularly that on "Borers" by Mr. Walsh, the Associate Editor. One great feature of many of these articles from which they derive not a little of their value, is the attempt that is made to show the absurdity, if not positive injuriousness, of a large number of the popular remedies for insects that from time to time "go the rounds" of the papers. In the last number, for instance, there is an excellent article on the folly of driving nails into fruit-trees for the purpose of warding off the attacks of insects, which appears to be a favourite application just now!

We wish the Society every success in its praiseworthy undertaking, and hope that all who suffer from noxious insects—and what farmer or gardener does not?—and all interested in the study of Natural History, will unite in rendering them every necessary encouragement.

## Toronto Electoral Division Society.

### SUMMER EXHIBITION OF HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

THE Toronto Electoral Division's Summer Exhibition of horticultural products was held in a spacious tent in the grounds of the Horticultural Society, on Thursday, 19th ult. Cut flowers, fruit, and vegetables were distributed round the outer table, while the central space was occupied by two tables on which were arranged a fine display of stove and green-house plants. The productions in every class were creditable, and, in some instances, very choice. Nothing shown, however, demands any particular mention. Many of the choicer plants exhibited have been before described in our columns, and to frequenters of floral displays, in this city, many of the specimens were old acquaintances. We would mildly suggest that some of these old frequenters of the exhibition table be left in peace in their respective green-houses, on the occasion of the next show, and that some other specimens, new if possible, be taken out for an airing. More variety, and a considerably augmented list of amateur competitors, are required by this Society before its mission as an educational organization—can be satisfactorily performed. Horticulture should be more encouraged in this city, and the Society's directors and committeemen should work harder. Hamilton, with fewer facilities, can sustain a flourishing Society; but then this result is only attained by energetic unanimity of action among those in authority, as well as among members and competitors. We speak advisedly when we say that Hamilton is thoroughly canvassed every year for subscriptions towards this object. Why should not a similar movement be inaugurated in Toronto?

## Preparations for the coming Provincial Fair.

THE Local Committee, in charge of the arrangements at the Crystal Palace for the approaching Provincial Exhibition, have now begun their duties in earnest, and though a little tardy in this respect, have made up for the delay by a business-like determination to push forward the much-needed repairs and alterations, so that the whole may be completed in ample time for the fair. The estimated expenditure is \$3,500—a sum which, although not sufficient to make all the repairs needed, has yet been judiciously appropriated to meet the most pressing wants, among which is an increase of accommodation for exhibitors. This has been met by an excellent arrangement of the northern sections of the grounds, by which the transept of the main building will be connected on this side with the long shed formerly used as a machine shop, which will now be refitted and cleaned up for the horticultural products on exhibition. The long building thus erected to connect the main building with this wing will be exclusively appropriated to the fine arts show; thus relieving the gallery by withdrawing from it one of the two chief attractions to the multitude—the pictures and ladies' work—and leaving the latter in almost undisturbed possession of this large area of the building. This consideration on the part of the gentlemen of the local committee will no doubt result in a surpassing effect on the part of those most directly interested in the change. The new building to be erected in the space proposed will be 61 by 60 feet, and will open by large doors from the palace itself. It will be lighted with lantern roofs in the ordinary manner of picture galleries, and so arranged as to give entire walls to this section of the exhibition. It will at the same time be a pleasant intermediate spot between the main building and that containing the display of fruit and flowers to which it will form the entrance. The latter will be floored and enclosed with windows and otherwise adapted to the purpose intended. To the north of this building a poultry shed, 250 feet long, is in course of erection, and a short distance from these, it is proposed to erect a temporary building for reapers and mowers, to take the place of the machine shed otherwise appropriated. Four hundred permanent sheep and one hundred pig pens are in course of erection in the eastern section of the grounds. The Committee rooms, also, which now stand in an inconvenient position in the centre of the field will be removed to the western gate where they will be in a less obtrusive locality, and the feed barn will for the future be placed in the centre of the square of stables near the Asylum wall. The other sheds are at present in excellent order, and, with little repair, will serve to answer their purpose. The Northern Railway propose to construct two platforms on their line, convenient to the ground, and run trains from their new station on the Esplanade, south of the City Hall, to the grounds, at convenient intervals. By separating the passengers "arriving" and "departing" on different platforms, it is expected that a great crush will be avoided, while, as a further convenience, it is proposed to sell admission tickets to passengers taking this route to the grounds at the railway station, thus obviating the necessity of a second crowding to obtain the tickets which might as conveniently be had in one.

## Hamilton Horticultural Society.

### SUMMER EXHIBITION.

THE Summer Exhibition of this flourishing Society was held in the Dr. J. Shed, Hamilton, on Wednesday, the 11th ult. The weather was delightfully fine; the number of competitors was moderately large; the vegetables and flowers on exhibition were very choice; and the arrangements were in the highest degree satisfactory. The display of greenhouse plants, especially fuchsias, as might have been expected, was somewhat inferior to the splendid collection that we had the pleasure of inspecting at the Spring Show of the Society. This deficiency, however, was more than compensated by the excellence of the productions shown in other departments. Vegetables and fruits especially were deserving of very high commendation. The potatoes, turnips, lettuce, onions, carrots, cabbages, canflowers, beets, &c., &c., testified, not only by the number of entries—amateurs as well as professionals,—but by their size and quality,

to the care bestowed on their cultivation, and to the favourable conditions of soil and climate in which they had been produced.

The fruit classes were well filled, when the season is considered. Many of our more excellent exhibition fruits do not attain perfection till the autumn shows. Bearing this fact in mind, the late display could not be regarded otherwise than a great success. Strawberries, cherries, red and black currants, gooseberries and melons, together with a few dishes of last year's apples—in splendid preservation—covered a centre table some thirty yards in length. Among this collection a fine dish of the "Agriculturist" strawberry—a new variety—from the nurseries of Messrs. Bruce, Hamilton; a fine plate of raspberries grown by Thomas Bachman, gardener to Mrs. W. P. McLaren, and a magnificent melon grown by the same exhibitor, were especially deserving of notice and commendation. One of the most gratifying features in the fruit department of the Show was the number of amateur competitors, and the fine specimens of culture which they exhibited. In flowers and vegetables, too, the amateurs of Hamilton are formidable rivals of the professional horticulturists. To this encouragement of non-professional competition, much of the success of the Hamilton Horticultural Society is attributable. Before exhibitions of useful and ornamental plants become popular with the masses, the extension of garden and window plant culture must be energetically fostered and encouraged. This the Hamilton Society has done and the results of its efforts, as evidenced by the competition to-day, must have amply repaid the Directors for all the exertion they have bestowed.

In flowers the display was very creditable. A fine collection of Gloxinias, in pots, was especially fine. Cut flowers were exhibited in great variety, and some of the bouquets reflected great credit on their exhibitors. A magnificent collection of flowers graced the north-west tables; while on one of the central tables some large boxes of choice flowers bore testimony to the taste and interest that are evinced in window gardening by the Hamiltonians.

The Exhibition was extremely well patronized by visitors during the afternoon and evening. In every respect, therefore, the President, Officers, and Directors of the Society must experience a pleasing gratification in finding that their labours are appreciated by the citizens of Hamilton.

## The Cattle Plague in Ireland.

RESPECTING the report of this dreadful disease having appeared in Ireland, Professor Lowne, who was appointed by the Government to investigate the cases of disease which had taken place in the county of Down, has published his report, in which he pronounces the disease, in the cases examined by him, to have been cattle plague. He considers that the system of establishing "cordons" and slaughtering the animals which were known to have been exposed to infection, has, in all probability, prevented the extensive spread of the disease. He concludes by saying that—

"It only remains to remark that there is a disease prevalent among the cattle in different parts of Ireland even more rapidly fatal than the cattle plague. From post-mortem examinations which have been made of animals that have died of this affection near Dublin, and also in the north of Ireland, I have satisfied myself that it is identical with the disease which exists among cattle in the Isle of Man. I need only remark that while the post-mortem appearances are, in many particulars, allied in the two diseases, the symptoms exhibited by the sick animals are totally dissimilar."

An outbreak in county Meath, the heart of the cattle districts, would be a very serious matter, much more so than anything that has as yet occurred in Ireland, and we learn with regret that the result of the investigation made by Professors Ferguson and Browne is an opinion on their part, that the cases in question were cases of plague. A cordon has been established round the farm.