

VISIT TO KNOX'S FRUIT FARM.

Mr. W. E. Smith, having just returned from a visit to the celebrated Knox Fruit Farm, near Pittsburg, was called upon for a description of the place, method of culture, etc., and gave a very interesting account of what he saw. The place consists of 160 acres; about 80 acres in vines, 30 in strawberries, 10 in raspberries, etc. The most remarkable thing about the place is, that nearly all the work is done by hand power; there is no part of his ground that he runs a cultivator, with the exception of perhaps twenty acres. Mr. Smith, like all others who have visited the grounds of Mr. Knox has returned with the *Jurunda* on the brain, with *seven hundred* horse-power pressure, saw the berries $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches round; 20 to 24 fill a quart measure when ripe; sell in Pittsburg for fifty cents per quart, beside Wilson's at fifteen cents. In New York they bring one dollar per quart. Knox thinks that '7.00' is the proper name in more respects than one, as he thinks it will produce with him 700 bushels to the acre.

Mr. Knox thinks a heavy coat of manure deforms the berries; manures annually on the surface. Prefers to renew his beds once in four years. Mulches light with straw.

RAISING VEGETABLES BY ARTIFICIAL HEAT.

Yesterday afternoon we paid a visit to Mr. Power, of the Tanneries, for the purpose of inspecting a large vegetable house which he has just erected for the purpose of raising garden stuff from seed by artificial heat, instead of the ordinary forcing frame with manure. The house is in reality a large forcing frame, about 85 feet long, with an avenue of about two feet wide down the centre, and beds 4 feet 6 inches wide, raised four or five feet from the ground. Running along the right side on entering is a bed made on the ground, in which is a large quantity of fine rhubarb beneath the raised bed or shelf devoted to raising plants from seed. The roof and front are of course glass, the latter being three feet high from the ground. In the raised beds are about 1,386 healthy lettuce plants, and an equal number of radishes besides cucumbers, cauliflowers, and other plants. This house is heated by a brick furnace four feet square by six feet high, containing the coils of iron pipe in which the water is heated. It is sunk some five feet in the ground, and upon the top of it is a bed for growing mushrooms. From the coils of pipe contained in the furnace, two large main pipes proceed, carrying the heated water from the furnace along the vegetable house, the water again returning to the furnace by a number of

small pipes to be reheated, and thus being continually kept in circulation. It is ultimately intended to extend branch pipes from the same mains to three other frames 85 feet long and 11 feet wide. The heating apparatus was put up by Mr. Greene, of John street, Montreal, who has fitted up several large public institutions, private houses, &c., on the same economical principle. Since the 21st December last, 30 cwt. of Cow Bay coal, at \$1.50 a ton has been sufficient to heat the place. Under ordinary circumstances with manure which would have to be bought, and carted from town, operations could scarcely have commenced till the 8th of January, and it is calculated that the cost of purchasing and carting manure for two years would pay for the apparatus. The hot water, moreover, diffuses a more equal heat, and one more readily under control, as in mild weather the manure is apt to become too hot, and so burns the roots of plants, while in more severe weather it is apt to become too cold. The furnace-house also supplies a warm place where the glass sashes may be repaired during the winter, and the butt of warm water in connection with the pipes, used to allow of any undue expansion, is also useful for making warm washes for cattle, &c. Hitherto, Mr. Power has been generally first in market with fresh vegetables, but adopting the new system he hopes to be nearly a month earlier than usual.

We believe to-day a number of members of the Horticultural Society intend visiting Mr. Power's forcing frames, as well as some other gardeners in the neighbourhood, with regard to the hot-water apparatus erected by Mr. Green. We may state that all danger from the use of a steam boiler is entirely avoided, and all that it requires is to see that the fire is kept going. This renders it peculiarly adapted for private houses. The more especially as the same hot water is used over and over again with great economy.—*Montreal Gazette*.

EVERGREEN HEDGES.

BY WALTER ELDER.

Evergreen hedges should form inclosures to all the various departments of ornamental gardening where they will thrive. To put up *dead sticks* or *cold iron* as fences to pleasure grounds and gardens without linings of evergreens, is at war with good taste. It looks like setting up the dead to watch over the living. Notwithstanding the many wise suggestions written and spoken of the beauty that evergreen hedges impart to ornamental gardening, and the best mode of culture thereof, they are not yet so general as they ought to be. They should be uni-

versally used as inclosures. We have numerous species and varieties of evergreens that are well adapted for making good hedges—the many arbor vitae, biotas, junipers, hemlocks, yews, boxwoods, Norway fir, etc., some of which will thrive upon almost every kind of soil that is dry and not in marshes. Where such spots occur, they may be set with osiers, to continue an unbroken live hedge. For *parks*, the Norway fir is one of the best to make a strong and thick outside hedge, and for divisions and suburban gardens arbor vitae, hemlock, biota, juniper, tree box, yew, etc., are well adapted and give a pleasing effect. For parterres and small divisions, the dwarf boxwoods, dwarf arbor vitae, and many other dwarfs are suitable. Every department of ornamental gardening is a *picture*; and the fences or inclosures are the *frameworks*, which either add beauty to the picture or destroy its beauty. Evergreen hedges add richness and beauty to the grounds and all the various kinds of plants thereon: as ornamental frames of precious woods finely polished, and others richly gilded, give greater graces to the picture. The cost of evergreen hedges, including the price of plants and setting them out, is about twenty-five cents per foot for tree boxwood, yew, Siberian arbor vitae, etc., twenty inches high; and for American arbor vitae, hemlock, Norway fir, Chinese biota, etc., twenty inches high, is about fifty cents per yard; the after care the first three years, in cutting up weeds about them, is about the same cost as a row of Indian corn of the same length.

Besides the beauties of evergreen hedges, their shelter is of great value in breaking off the low currents of cold air in the winter which prove so destructive to the stems of many species of plants, which by their girth and density cannot yield to sudden contraction by cold and burst open; or in other words, the compression of the air in their cells becomes so great by sudden and severe cold as to cause explosion, just as the compression of air by fire and gunpowder rends rocks asunder. The branches being higher are not so injured by low cold currents, and being smaller and less dense, they give way to compression more readily and remain uninjured when the stems are rent. On the contrary, they are more exposed and suffer more severely from spontaneous evaporation, and are often killed by that when the stems remain sound. So as evergreen hedges save the *stems*, belts of trees protect the *branches* by checking the force of spontaneous evaporation.

It is a moderate estimation to say that evergreen hedges and belts of trees are worth ten times their cost in these respects. All horticultural improvers, for these reasons, should make fences of evergreen hedges universal, and the *dead*