

* Open Letters. *

NEW YORK STATE FRUIT GROWERS.

SIR,—The annual meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society, held in Rochester, the 28th and 29th of June, was the most successful of any meeting ever held by them, in point of numbers and general interest. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, Vice-President, delivered the annual address, in which he paid a very feeling tribute to the memory of Patrick Barry, their late President, who died on the 23rd of June last. W. C. Barry, his son, was elected President, and Mr. Willard, Vice-President, for the ensuing year. Many interesting papers were read and discussed, among them one upon the fungi and disease which infect grapes, by David G. Fairchild, of the Agricultural Department at Washington, which was of particular interest. The paper was illustrated by diagrams, showing the methods of attack, and the effects of the different fungi upon the leaves and fruit. He stated that there were 50 species of fungi in the United States which annoy horticulturists. There were other papers of interest on plant diseases, bacteria, etc., some points of which we may refer to when we get them in their annual report. Prof. Saunders, of Ottawa, was present, and gave them an account of horticultural experiments and progress at the various Experimental Farms in the Dominion; and A. M. Smith, of St. Catharines, read a paper on the "Progress of Fruit Culture in Canada." There were also several other members of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association present, all of whom received a cordial welcome. The question of "To Spray or not to Spray," was thoroughly discussed, and the general opinion seemed to be, that spraying with Paris Green, in moderate quantities, was the most effectual and best way of destroying insect pests, and that it would not materially affect the foliage or growth of the tree where judiciously applied. The Bordeaux mixture and the solution of ammonia and carbonate of copper were recommended for the various forms of mildew, or fungus, and rot. The first crop of the past year was reported almost a failure, with the exception of grapes, which had been an enormous crop. One county was reported which had produced 24,011 tons, averaging 2½ cents per lb., amounting to \$1,080,000. In advocating what to plant in the future, there was a variety of opinion, but the majority wisely advised a variety of fruits, or the not putting "all of your eggs in one basket."

A. M. SMITH, *St. Catharines, Ont.*

BURLINGTON FRUIT GROWERS.

SIR,—The annual meeting of the Burlington Horticultural Association was held at Reuten's Hotel, recently. The President, George E. Fisher, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members and a pleasant and profitable evening was spent. The chief features of the meeting were the annual address of the President, which was an able review of the field of Horticulture for 1890, and an instructive paper by Dr. Zimmerman on the cultivation of Black Currants, in which he advocated the Black Naples as the most profitable, and a light clay loam as being best adapted for their production.

The following officers were elected for the current year:—President, George E. Fisher; Vice-President, Smith Freeman; Secretary-Treasurer, Arthur W. Peart. Directors:—Department of Apples, Edwin Peart; Grapes, Dr. Zimmerman; Pears and Plums, Peter McCullough, Jr.; Small Fruits, Joseph Lindsay; Vegetables, J. W. Bridgeman; Shipping, William Hopkins and Harry Williams. Executive Committee:—D. Henderson, Dr. Husband and Alexander Riach. Entertainment Committee:—President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. Auditors:—Charles Dynes and George N. Peer.

A. W. PEART, *Burlington.*

BLACK ALDER FOR THE CURRANT WORM.

SIR,—A farmer in this vicinity, Mr. J. McKeely, was told to put twigs of the Black Alder about his currant bushes to keep off the worms. He tried it last summer with complete success, having fine berries without the trouble of applying hellebore or other poison. He could only account for it by the strong smell of the alder keeping the insects off.

W. H. WYLIE, *Carleton Place, Ont.*