

Agricultural College; and the object so far as horticulture is concerned, is "to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation; the analysis of soils and water; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds."

It is a satisfaction to know that Canada is not behind her enterprising American Cousins in the matter of experimental farm stations. Already, in accordance with an act passed in 1886, respecting "Experimental Farm Stations," which provided for one in each province, the Central Farm has been located within three miles of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa; and plans are matured for active operations early this spring.

The first Bulletin has just been issued, and may be had by any one who will write for it, addressing the "Experimental Farm, Ottawa."

Premiums.—The *American Garden* does not believe in premiums. It is too much like hiring a person to subscribe.

We hope none of the readers of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST have been thus "hired."

The distribution of trees and plants which we make every spring, is apart of the regular work of our Association, and come to the subscribers of the HORTICULTURIST because they are members of that Association.

The object of this distribution is to test new fruits in Canada, by thus making the gardens of our members

experimental, so that we may be the sooner prepared to report with confidence as to their real value.

Seed Testing.—With the object of saving our farmers from the losses to which they are annually subject through using old or inferior seeds, a glass structure has just been completed at the Experimental Farm, for the express purpose of testing their germinating power. Samples of seeds, duly labeled, may be sent, postage free, to the above address; and returns concerning their value will be made free of charge, as quickly as possible.

Question Drawer.

This department is intended as an open one to every reader of the "Horticulturist" to send in either questions or answers. Often a reader will be able to answer a question which has been left unanswered, or only partially answered by us. For convenience of reference the questions are numbered, and any one replying or referring to any question will please mention the number of it.

24. Ashes.—*What quantity of unleached ashes would be about right to put around ten-year-old apple trees, and would spring or fall be the best time to apply them?* [A. ARMSTRONG, Barrie.]

PROF. PANTON, of the Agricultural College, Guelph, replies:—"Put on an application of about three-fifths of an inch in depth. I think the spring is about the best time, owing to the tendency of the potash to dissolve, and pass beyond the reach of the roots when needed."

25. Bones.—*I can get a great many bones within a short distance of my place. How can I manufacture them into shape for use on the land?* [A. A.]

PROF. PANTON says: "Compost them with about twice their bulk of good ashes, slightly moistened; turn the pile over once a month for about three months. The bones will then be easily broken and beaten to a soft mass, which will be fit for use at once."