

Although it is acknowledged by all that the quality and quantity of the agricultural produce of any country is an enormous influence affecting its prosperity as a whole, and notwithstanding that there is no cause which so materially lessens this supply as the ravages of noxious insects, yet we cannot find that the English Government has done anything to encourage or foster this or similar efforts, even though there are such vast interests at stake. It is, however, pleasing to find in the preface to the report under consideration, an account of an important experiment which has been tried at Aldersey Grammar School, situated in the heart of an agricultural district in the County of Cheshire, as to the possibility of teaching boys as much entomology as is needed for common farm use, without interfering with their other studies. This experiment has now been tried for three years, under the efficient direction of the Head Master, Mr. W. Bailey, with the co-operation of Miss Ormerod, and the results have been most satisfactory. The boys received a course of lessons on insect life, illustrated by living specimens and diagrams; they also collected and bred, so as to watch through their different stages the injurious insects of the neighborhood, and by this means soon became acquainted with the common types. "In fact, *the* great step was made; by the simple but sound method of teaching pursued, the boys had learnt to know *the crop pests* by sight, without doubt or mental worry, just as they knew *the crops* that the insects infest."

J. FLETCHER.

Montreal Horticultural Society, Ninth Annual Report, pp. 154, 8vo., Montreal, 1884.

This pamphlet contains much interesting and valuable information for horticulturists. "Notes on the Trees and Shrubs of Northern Japan," by Prof. D. P. Penhallow, gives a list of the most useful trees of those islands and compares them with some of our own species, with a view to suggesting which might be successfully cultivated in Canada. A most important paper is contributed by Mr. Chas. Gibb on the Russian apples imported by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture in 1870. Descriptions, and in many cases, good illustrations, are given of the best sorts of these valuable apples, and Mr. Gibb here supplies that authoritative information which is needed in reference to those Russian apples likely to prove suitable to our climate. "The Cultivation of the Cabbage," by Mr. R. Brodie, jr., gives the best varieties, and the best way to grow them on the Island of Montreal. In addition to these papers, there are reports from judges and from four local branches of the Society.