

Horticulture.

The Normal School Grounds, Toronto.

HEREWITH we present our readers with a sketch of the principal Normal School building, and some fine illustrations of portions of the magnificent shrubs that luxuriate in the grounds. As most of our readers are aware, these fine grounds and building

ment, little had been accomplished in the way of ornamental floriculture. Now, however, under his judicious management, the beds of annuals, roses, &c., are equal if not superior to any in the district. Unquestionably, the collection of the former—numbering over one hundred varieties—is the best in the country.

One of the most interesting features that we noticed, on a recent visit to the grounds, was a fine col-

would have been to render foliage and flowers an indistinct and ill-defined mass. We chose rather to exhibit, as nearly as possible, the form and habit of the leaf and the flower—and to state in addition that the respective shrubs may be grown in any shape desired. They bear pruning well, and may be raised and trimmed to any height from two to ten feet.

Our first cut shows an outside twig of the *Weigelia Rosea*. It is a shrub of great merit, possessing the



are centrally situated in this city, and are bounded on the north by Gerrard-street, on the east by Church-street, on the south by Gould-street, and on the west by Victoria-street. Respecting the building itself, we may just premise that it is a very fine one. Its site has been well chosen. It is considerably elevated above the business parts of the city, and a fine view of the bay, island, and lake is obtained from its upper stories. Our readers, initiated in the technicalities of architecture, will observe from the cut, that the principal part is constructed in the Roman Doric order of Palladian character. It has for its centre four pilasters of the full height of the building, with pediment surrounded by an open Doric cupola. The grounds and building occupy a rectangle of about eight acres in extent. Considerable skill and exquisite taste in landscape gardening have been displayed in laying out the grounds. Nothing stiff or formal is observable in the walks or in the parterres or flower beds which they surround. The creative ability and horticultural skill of the designer of these grounds—the late Mr. Mudie—must have been of a very high order. So far as ornamental gardening is concerned, this district has sustained an almost irreparable loss by the disease of that gentleman.

Mr. Forsyth, who has been for eleven years in charge of the grounds, has contributed much by his

lection of over 200 specimens of Canadian indigenous plants. In this fine assortment are about thirty ferns; a variety of cypripediums, or Mocassin plant; several fine specimens of the orchis tribe; and many other plants too numerous to particularize. As we



minutely scrutinized this novel collection, we could not resist the impression that this was a most important movement, though inaugurated in a quiet unostentatious way. Many of our choicer native plants are, comparatively speaking, unknown. Many of them are particularly beautiful, and well deserve prominent places in our gardens and parterres.

Ornamental shrubs are, probably, the most interesting and attractive feature of the Normal School grounds. Of this graceful class of what may not inaptly be termed, dwarf flowering trees—there are to be seen not less than one hundred varieties. We regret that space will not admit of us printing the entire list, which we possess. The bare mention of the specimens, which we had drawn by our artist at the time of our visit, must, at the present, suffice. First, however, we must premise that our illustrations represent mere "sprigs" of the respective shrubs. To have attempted to have shown the entire trees,

combined properties of being showy, free flowering, perfectly hardy, and free from disease. The bloom is of a variegated pink, and a bush in full bloom, forms a magnificently beautiful object.

In our second illustration is shown a small outside branch of the *Deutzia Gracilis* or Slender Deutzia. This plant is a native of Japan; and is remarkable for its compact habit of growth, its rich, deep green foliage, and its profusion of white flowers.

Our third wood-cut exhibits the flowers and foliage of a shrub which we are glad to perceive is becoming a general favorite in our city lawns and gardens—*Philadelphus Grandiflora* or large Flowering Syringa. The blossoms of this fine shrub emit a rich strong perfume, something resembling that of the orange. It admits of easy culture, and should have a place in every flower garden.

In addition to the shrubs and delightful flower plots, the visitor cannot fail to admire the splendid collection of ornamental trees which grace the grounds. A twig and flower of one of them—*Liriodendron Tulipifera*—are shown in our last illustration. This fine tree is a native, we believe, of the South-Western States. The foliage, as will be observed, is of a very peculiar form, while the flowers, which are pale yellow, tinged with dark orange—sometimes attain the size of an ordinary tea-cup.



The following trees in the grounds are also deserving of notice:—*Catalpa Bignonioides*, native of South



ability and perseverance to impart to the shrubs their present beautiful appearance. At the time that he became manager of the horticultural depart-