

black currants were assuming their Ethiopian hue, the day was bright and warm, dame nature was smiling from every feature of her lovely countenance. The committee were received by Mr. Saunders the director in his usual genial style; we were all old friends, he having been President of our Association for several years previous to his receiving his present appointment. After partaking of slight refreshments at the house at 10 a.m. we sallied forth to inspect the plants and fruits. It is not too much to say that the wand of the magician has passed over the farm since its purchase some three years ago; stumps and stones have been removed; rough ground has been made smooth; fences have been built; houses, barns, stables, museum and a laboratory has been erected, and on every hand marks of progress, industry and its results are observed. Lovely belts of deciduous and evergreen trees almost surround the farm of over four hundred acres, whilst excellent roads wind with graceful sweeps among clumps of trees and shrubs which have been imported from the four corners of the earth. Nothing appears to have been neglected or overlooked to make the farm attractive and ornamental, whilst for actual utility it would be difficult to think of any experiment that is not being tried, or is not contemplated in the future. In the laboratory Professor Shutt is working out the value of feeding plants. When visited, he had over his gas jet in a platinum trial gauze basket some lamb's quarter, of which he was obtaining the ash. On enquiry being made he explained that this plant was a profuse grower in Manitoba, and he was testing its value as a cattle food.

The director is great on hybrids, and crosses are being made in various directions between grains, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Seedlings are being raised from these crosses, as it is a well known law of nature, that when once the original type of a plant is broken down by a cross, the seedlings obtained sport in every conceivable direction. Then there are experiments going on to test all the different varieties of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, etc., of which small sections have been planted of hundreds of kinds selected from the known world.

I noticed the barley from India, the straw of which is about nine inches long, the head is heavy, and it was turning yellow to ripen when all the other kinds were yet green. There were also patches of oats and grains sown at the earliest possible moment when the spring opened—the land having been prepared during the previous autumn—these were repeated, the same grain being sown a week apart for six or seven successive weeks. The result will show the probable proper season for the seeding of this

{ 11 }

The experiments in manures, artificial and others, are varied and extensive. Quite a number of trials are being made with chemicals for the destruction of various kinds of fungus growth, and the insect enemies that ravage our grain and fruit crops. Amongst these pests, mildew, apple scab, blight,