

cut off close; keep the ground clear of grass and weeds, and manure with leaf mould. Beds thus formed and cultivated will to my certain knowledge, continue productive for twelve years, and, I have every reason to believe, as much longer as this system of culture is continued. Straw berries so cultivated are remarkable for their lushness and aroma. A very continual watering, whilst bearing, is desirable—as the crop is wonderfully increased, both in quantity and quality, thereby.”

Such is Mr. Peabody's mode of raising this delicious fruit; and although we have not the fine climate of Georgia, and may not expect fruit in an open field in December, yet we certainly can adopt the course of treatment that he so kindly points out to us. Our course, then, is to plant the best ever-bearing pistillate and hermaphrodite impregnator; to use no manure but leaf mould, or other suitable decayed vegetable matter, with an occasional sprinkling of wood ashes; to keep all runners off; and to water very frequently during the time of fruiting.

The best descriptions of strawberry for planting, generally, in England would be, in our opinion, “Hovey's Seedling,” the “Early Scarlet,” “Lonzworth's Prolific,” “M'Avoy's Superior,” and the “Extra Red” (all American varieties, the Prolific, Superior, and Extra Red being seedlings from Hovey's Seedling by one of our best English hermaphrodites), if we could obtain them in this country; but, unfortunately, there are none to be had, unless imported from the United States. The English varieties appear to be all hermaphrodites, from the seed of which famous pistillates may be obtained by any who will take the trouble to attempt it.

Those particularly celebrated at this moment are the Oscar (of Mr. Charles Turner, Royal Nurseries, Slough), the Wizard of the North (of Mr. J. Robertson, Linside Nursery, Paisley), the Empress Eugenie (of Mr. Myatt, of Deptford), and two or three well-known varieties. The Oscar is a particularly fine, well-flavoured, firm, and large-sized strawberry; and said to be a cross between the British Queen and Keen's Seedling. The Wizard is said to be between the Elton Pine and Keen's Seedling, producing a large handsome berry, and an abundant crop. The Empress Eugenie has been remarkably large this season, of a dark, blood-red colour, very juicy, rather soft and with a very strong perfume, somewhat similar to the musk melon. We believe this is also called the “Crim on Queen.”

We cannot ourselves feel any confidence in an alleged cross between one hermaphrodite and another, unless we are perfectly certain that the pollen of one was applied to the bud of the other, previous to its opening; for almost simultaneously the pollen of its own stamens is matured, and the least motion causes it to fall upon the pistils, which they enclose, and self-impregnation ensues at once. If, however, the pollen

from one kind be applied to the bud of the other, just before it opens, the subtle influence descends to the pistils and impregnation is effected surely and certainly, before the flower has yet opened, or its own stamens have had time to burst and shed their pollen. This is the opinion of Mr. Peabody, verified by some 20 years' experience, and we fully adopt his views upon this point. As a matter of course, pistillates, being pure females, cannot impregnate themselves; their artificial impregnation is therefore, perfectly easy, and the cross resulting is beyond doubt.

In conclusion, we may remark that (more or less) all hermaphrodite strawberry plants appear to become more and more imperfect as they get older, until, in some cases, they will not bear a single perfect berry; and we believe that even the very best hermaphrodite (however perfect may appear when young) will, in a few years, exhibit this inherent tendency to infertility.

### Templemoyle Agricultural School.

This Irish institution appears from a recent report to be in a prosperous condition, and the instruction is of a rich and useful character. The farm is leased of the London Grocers' Company, who have steadily supported the school from its commencement. The following extract from a speech of Mr. Thompson, an officer of the company, at the terminal examination of the scholars has something more than a local interest.

When he looked around the school, and perceived the advantages which the scholars possessed, not only receiving a sound, practical education in the particular profession which they had chosen for themselves, but having also put into their hands the key to all the sciences, enabling them to examine into the noble works of God, to see His wisdom as displayed in the construction of man; and when they learned of the winds to think of Him who made the winds minister unto them that they ride upon the storms: finding also in the stones sermons, and books in the running brooks—in the light of these they are enabled to look from nature up to nature's God; and soberly and earnestly could he assure them that when he considered these advantages enjoyed here he could wish himself again a boy, standing at their side, surrounded by those privileges, and learning with them. But, if they had privileges, let them remember that they had also great responsibilities—that in after life they would all go forth as missionaries in the world, whether for the prosperity of their native land, or as the pioneers of civilization in other lands. When thus situated they would never forget the advantage enjoyed here. He assured them that there was no such thing as “lucky hits.” By steady, earnest, truthful perse-