

* Our Book Table. *

BOOK REVIEW.—The Evolution of our Native Fruits. L. H. Bailey. 472 pages. Pubs. MacMillan Co., N. Y. Price, \$2.00.

To me this is one of the most fascinating sides of Horticultural investigation. The development of our native fruits has been so marvellously raging that men have forgotten the fact of the establishment in less than a century of an American pomology. Think of the growth of the grape industry, raspberry and strawberry culture, all due to the origination of varieties suited to American conditions, and almost wholly by the amelioration of the native types of these fruits.

Unfortunately the early history of fruit growing is in most countries wrapped in more or less obscurity. It has been the fashion in the past that which political and social events have been recorded with some precision and accuracy, the introduction of important agricultural and horticultural factors bearing upon the happiness and welfare of the human race have often being entirely overlooked unrecorded, and their influence thus underestimated.

Prof. Bailey has recorded in this volume the primary and fundamental steps of American Horticulture. He says that those motives run through the book: "An attempt to expound the progress of evolution in objects which are familiar and which have not yet been greatly modified by man; an effort to make a simple historical record from unexplored fields; a desire to suggest the treasures of experience and narrative which are a part of the development of agriculture and from which the explorer must one day bring material for history and inspiration for story."

The discussion is divided into nine captions:

1. The rise of the American grape.
2. The strange history of the mulberries.
3. The evolution of American plums and cherries.
4. The native apples.
5. The origin of American raspberry growing.
6. Evolution of blackberry and dewberry culture.
7. Various types of berry-like fruits, (including gooseberries, currants, juneberries, etc).
8. Various types of tree fruits, (including persimmons, thorn apple and nut fruits).
9. General remarks on the improvement of our native fruits.

Besides the historical value of the book, it marks some important botanical discoveries. The author says, "The prosecution of the study has demanded the consultation of original sources of information and has required much travel, including a visit to European herbaria in which the types of certain species of plants are deposited." Here then we have an inkling of the scientific value of this work. The botanical nomenclature of each of the groups of native fruits has been thoroughly examined and errors of synonymy and identity eliminated as far as

possible. As an example he found that the botanical name commonly accepted as belonging to our native blackberry *Rubus Villosus* was given by the botanist Aiton to the common dewberry; on looking the whole matter over it transpired that the common high-bush cranberry was at present without a name to the scientific world. Thereupon Prof. Bailey named it *Nigrobaccus* (blackberries). A complete monograph of the wild raspberries with their cultivated varieties is given; in the same way the botany of the native grapes is worked over and brought up to date. I regard the evolution of our native fruits as Prof. Bailey's master-piece, although scientific and philosophical it is full of practical suggestions and the record of the past should prove inspiration and guide to our work in the future. Mechanically the book is gotten up in excellent form, with heavy, glossy paper, which records perfectly the numerous half-tone engravings, clear type and high class binding.

This volume now presented to the public represents a study covering a period of ten or more years. Prof. Bailey has evidently put into it his best thought and effort, and the result is such that it reflects the highest credit upon our leading writer on American Horticulture. J. C.

BOOK REVIEW.—Bush-Fruits, by Fred. W. Card. Size 5 x 7 inches, pp. 537. Published by MacMillan & Co., N. Y. Price, \$1.50.

This is an attempt to monograph, in a horticultural fashion, the raspberries, blackberries, dewberries, currants gooseberries and other bush like fruits. In giving these plants the name of bush-fruits, the author follows an English custom, which seems appropriate and more accurately descriptive than the common American equivalent of "small fruits"; this latter, however, has a broader application.

To describe the scope of the book is simply to define "a horticultural monograph." Does a grower, amateur or commercial, wish to know how to cultivate and market any class of these fruits? This volume will give him the best practical information to be had. Does he wish to learn the history of a new variety? A full account will be found here and brought down to Sept. 30, 1898. The enemies of bush-fruits are treated at length in a practical way. The book is not without interest to the botanist and mycologist, as considerable space is given to the affinities of wild species and their cultivated forms. The fungus enemies are classified in the same way, and will be of much value to the student and investigator. The insect enemies are treated in a like manner. The great value of the book lies in its completeness. After reading it and looking up the numerous references, one may feel that the subject has been thoroughly investigated. The book has been edited by Prof. Bailey, and is the first of a proposed series of monographs on the various types of American fruit. J. C.