

The Horticultural Grounds, Toronto.

The illustration below shows a view of the nursery and the rustic pavilion. These grounds are the property of the Horticultural Society. The city gives an annual grant to the Society.

The grounds consist of five acres of land, which is principally in sod, kept well cut. Numerous and various kinds of trees are growing on the grounds, and many neat beds of flowers intersperse the scenery. Walks are laid out and the public is admitted free from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m., except when the grounds are used for exhibitions or promenade concerts; then a charge is made according to the entertainment.

We paid a visit to these grounds on the 13th of July. The Toronto Electoral Division Society Exhibition of fruit, flowers and vegetables was held on that day. We were so much pleased with the grounds and exhibition in the afternoon that we returned in the evening. The grounds were then illuminated with numerous lamps, the band was playing, the citizens, old and young, lads and lasses, all appeared to enjoy the treat.

The exhibition was pronounced the best ever held in Toronto. The flowers and hot house plants were very fine. There were contributions from the green-houses of the Hon. D. L. McPherson, C. S. Czowski, Esq., Lt.-Governor Howland, Ex-Alderman Hallam, Messrs. Fleming, Leslie, Grey, Hon. W. H. Bolton, and others. Prizes were awarded in the various classes.

One thing struck us as most remarkable—the dry weather had caused the grass to turn quite brown in many places, but the flowers in every bed were all in full bloom.

We were much pleased with the flowers on the grounds; we consider them the best kept lot we have seen or desired to see. The gardener was introduced to us; his name is Lightfoot. We enquired of him about his position and his flowers; we found that he had great difficulty in procuring the necessary manure, and even a load of sand he had engaged to pay for himself because Fleming had refused to pay it when the bill was sent at first, but finally it was paid for. We thought it hard that a poor emigrant with a family of seven children to support, and with only a small salary, should strive so hard to please the public or even to offer part of his salary for sand that Fleming objected to pay for.

We have seen and heard so much of Fleming's smallness that we think the quicker his services are dispensed with from the public agricultural affairs, the better. Why he should be favored with advantages at the agricultural building at Toronto is more than we can conceive.

The gardener we think deserving of advancement, and he will have it in time.

We selected the spot and took an artist to sketch the grounds, as shown above.

THE BEST TIME TO HOE.—In Secretary Flint's Massachusetts Report it is stated by a cultivator that the portion of the garden which is hoed or cultivated with the dew upon the ground produces better crops than the part that is hoed in the heat of the day. Will some of our own cultivators make the experiment with different parts of their garden and send us the results for publication?

In reply to an enquiry about saving fruit trees after having been gnawed by mice, &c., I will give my experience:—My father had a young orchard of 100 trees, nearly all of which were girdled by mice and rabbits one winter. As soon as the ground was thawed sufficiently, we banked them up with earth and nearly all lived and did well, a nice healthy bark forming over the wound. —W. H., in Iowa Homestead.

Garden, Orchard & Forest.

THE SCARLET RUNNER.

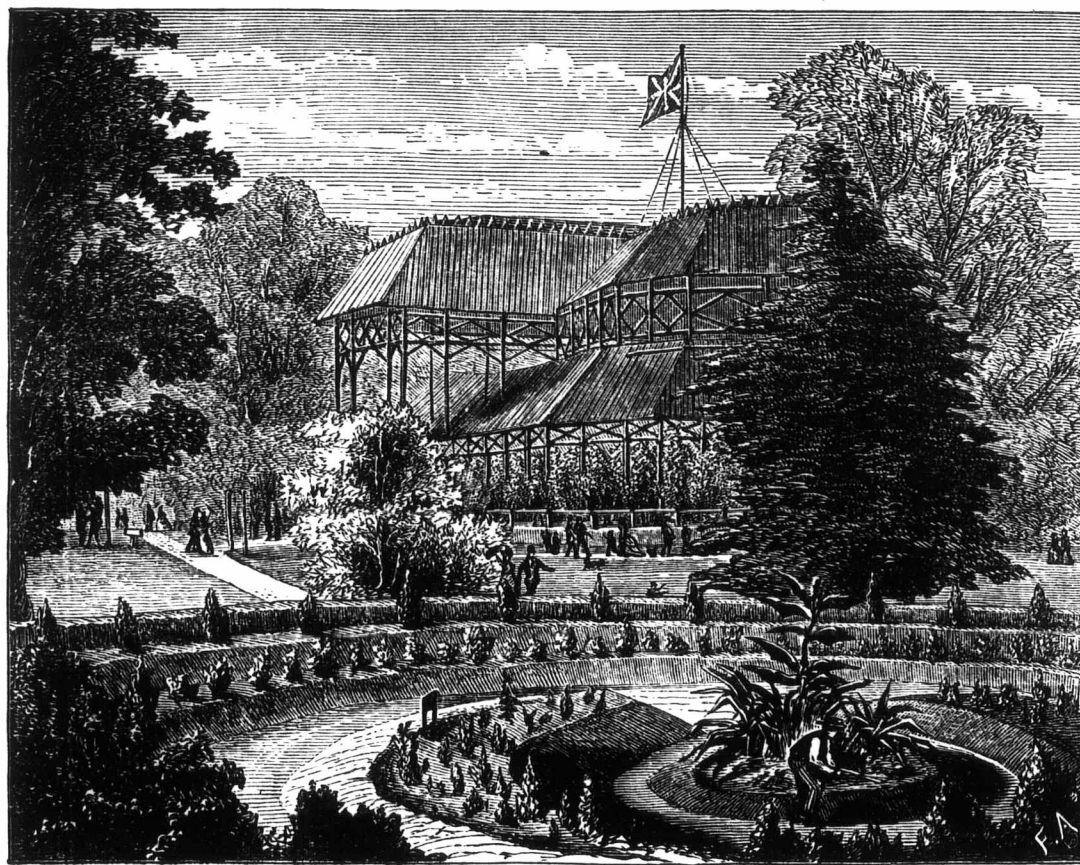
It has always been a matter of surprise that the Scarlet Runner has never obtained a foothold among the cultivators of garden vegetables. In almost all portions of Europe it is one of the most esteemed, and we think there is scarcely a garden where any fair collection is grown, that this one is not found among them. They are used as much as our dwarf beans—broken or cut to pieces, and eaten in the green podded state. On rich ground they have very thick succulent pods, much more so than any dwarf bean, and the flavor is very different from them. The plant, in fact, belongs to another species, although until the last century it was generally believed to be a form of the East Indian or dwarf bean. This is from the warmer parts of South America.

The flowers are of great beauty, rivaling the color of the brightest scarlet Zonale Geranium, and give more gaiety to a vegetable garden than any plant known. It is a great fashion in some parts of England to make them border the garden walks. Very light poles are employed—not thicker than broom handles, and two are attached together somewhat like the letter X, only that the point of crossing is near the apex. Another pair is made and one set at the upper line of the walk and one at the lower. Then a horizontal series is fixed from the points where the pieces cross, and the whole when finished, very much like a common "saw back" or "wood horse." The frame is then

who make the English spring-time so rich in melody. But the great bulk of the tree growths of England is found amid the hedge rows which separate the fields. The hedge of hawthorn or buckthorn seems to be the almost universal fence of the English farmer. By the side of a hedge is nearly always a ditch, the hedge standing on the ridge made by the earth thrown out of the ditch. This adds to both the absolute and the relative height of the hedge; and the ditch, moreover, serves the purpose of drainage, some-times at least. Scattered irregularly along the hedges, and sometimes on both sides of the ditch stand the forest trees. And as the fields are generally small and the hedges frequent, the trees are numerous, and, as one looks carelessly across the country, the trees seem to amount often to a forest.

The older trees seem to be chiefly oak; but among the newer growths, and especially in the forests, I noticed a large ponderance of the European larch and the Norway spruce, with a fair sprinkling of the Scotch pine. I saw several forests of considerable extent, made up of the larch and spruce mixed in nearly equal proportions. —Cor. Prairie Farmer.

The sulphate of ammonia is an excellent manurial liquid to apply to verbenas or any other flower, giving to the foliage a dark green, luxuriant and healthy appearance. It is economical, clean and easily applied. Prepare it in the evening before using, by dissolving one ounce of ammonia in two gallons of water. It may be applied once a week with safety. —Southern Farmer.



THE HORTICULTURAL GROUNDS, TORONTO.

filled by numerous poles, set about one foot apart, and all in the X manner. This is immensely strong, takes little time, allows of the use of lighter material than our lima bean does, and when in bloom gives a solid sheet of scarlet flowers, which any one who once sees will never forget.

We cannot tell why it has been so much neglected with us. It does not come into use quite so early as the dwarf bean, but we think would be in before the lima. It is likely many would prefer the lima in an absolute choice between one and the other, but we all like variety and do not want to live on one thing, no matter how good it may be. —Gardener's Monthly.

PLANTING AND PRESERVING TREES.

In England, the traveller, as he is rushed along the railroads, is at first inclined to believe that the country is well wooded. Trees in abundance meet his eyes in all directions. But a little attention shows him that there are but few forests or even groves. Here and there, on the great estates, a hunting park of forest has been preserved or raised, and sometimes the mountain sides, as I noticed among the Cheviot hills, are being covered with quite extensive forest growths.

Besides these, one notices frequently small groves, or thickets rather, as they are purposely left full of underbrush, planted as game preserves, or coverts. These coverts occupying some corner inconvenient or useless for ordinary tillage, are the haunts of thousands of birds

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH OLD STRAWBERRY BEDS?

The strawberry season will soon be over, and the question, "What shall be done with the old beds?" will be in order. We are aware that conflicting answers will be given to the question by men of good judgment and long experience.

In the first place, we had better state what we mean by old strawberry beds. We mean those that have borne one or more full crops. A bed set out the past spring we would call a new bed, and one set out last autumn we would place in the same class, but those planted a year ago last spring, or earlier, we would call old beds.

Many intelligent and successful growers of strawberries for market, raise but one crop from a plantation, and then plow it under. There is no doubt that where strawberries are transplanted in April or May the crop that they will yield in between thirteen and fourteen months will be their best one, whether we regard size or quantity. If the bed is allowed to remain longer, the labor of cleaning it will be considerable, and then it will bear a lighter crop of smaller berries the next year, and continue to diminish every succeeding year.

On the other hand, if we set out a new plantation every year, and plow under the one that has borne one crop, we are obliged to cultivate the land about fifteen months before realizing any return for the capital invested in plants,

soil and labor. Some, we are aware, raise a crop the first year between the rows of strawberries, but that necessitates cultivating by hand entirely, and can only be defended where land is very dear, and then the soil should be made very rich so that the strawberry plants shall not be deprived of the necessary nutrition.

After the crop of berries has been gathered, another crop of several kinds of vegetables, as cabbage, cucumbers for pickles, celery, turnips or sowed corn can be grown upon the ground, or plants for the next spring's plantation, or for market can be grown. It is not necessary that the ground for two years should be entirely devoted to one crop of fruit.

But then it is sometimes impossible to find new ground every year for strawberries, and, in consequence, necessity may compel us to make the most possible out of the old plantation. In that case, a very good way is to go over the bed with a scythe, mowing down grass, weeds, and vines. Then rake it off and you have a good starting point to begin cultivation. With a small corn plow turn a furrow from the rows each way, making a ridge between them. It will do no harm to run the plow pretty close to the row of plants, even cutting off many of the side roots. The old roots are of but little service after the berries are ripe. With the new growth of leaves new roots will start out near the crown, and then, if they find a fresh mellow soil to work in, they will show their appreciation of it by their luxuriant growth.

This process will leave but a narrow strip to hoe and weed, and then the bed will be pretty thoroughly renovated. Of course it is not absolutely essential that the vines should be mowed, and should the weather be very dry, perhaps it would be advisable to let them remain to shade the roots, but should the weather be tolerably moist, we are confident from our own observations, that mowing will increase the new growth.

After the rows of vines have been cleaned out, the ridge left between the rows should be leveled down with a cultivator, and should the weeds be pretty thick, they should be raked out upon the surface with the pruned hoe, and left exposed to the sun.

A top-dressing of fine barn-yard manure would undoubtedly be beneficial, and a dusting of plaster on many kinds of soil would be good. If any of the commercial fertilizers could be obtained tolerably pure, at reasonable rates, it would probably be a good investment to apply a light dressing. By means of these fertilizers a good growth of vine could be obtained for the protection of the roots in winter.

UTILIZING WASTE MATERIAL.

In the address delivered before the new Germantown Horticultural Society, and which you have honored by republishing, I took occasion to remark that there were still unutilized wants of the human family, and instanced the absence in America of purchasable mushrooms, so much employed abroad. It interests me to know that an intelligent gardener has already adopted the idea, and has a mushroomery in successful commencement.

Are there not other things that are also neglected, and which ingenious minds and hands could turn to a very profitable account?—This idea

is enforced by a paragraph from a late St. Louis paper, describing a new industry now in operation there. Some time since a party of citizens conceived the plan of turning to profit the gas water running to waste from the gas works. It contains a large percentage of ammonia. They separated the ammonia held in solution and resaped a great profit. The sulphate of ammonia produced was of a superior quality, and the demand exceeded the capacity of the works, while there grew up at once a demand from distant points, including places east of the Alleghenies, New Orleans, and Charleston, S. C., &c.

This was utilizing waste. Let us see if we can give a profitable outlook for some other person, be he gardener or housewarmer. As I pass a certain large woolen factory, I am often surprised that somebody does not take possession of the waste steam which is continually discharged on the level of the ground, and which creates a cloud sufficiently large to frighten unaccustomed horses as they pass it. —Mow, why should not this warmth be conducted to and through the neighboring tenant houses; or could not you tell some one how to convert it into grapes by erecting over it a grape house. Again, could not unlimited amounts of saleable flowers and fruits be produced in the unused garrets of great factories by utilizing the waste steam always discharging?—J. J. S., in Gardener's Monthly.

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