

FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY OF WESTERN N. Y.

The following condensed details of the meeting of the Fruit Growers' Society of Western New York, recently held at Rochester, N. Y., is from the *Country Gentleman*:—

"The annual meeting of this society was briefly noticed last week. We now give a condensed account of the proceedings, embracing the more interesting facts stated in the discussion.

LEAF BLIGHT AND CRACKING IN THE PEAR.—Members generally had found these two maladies to go together, but not invariably. The leaf-blight more frequently attacked young plants in the seed bed—and sometimes larger orchard trees. When on bearing trees, it always produced cracking; but the fruit was often known to crack while the trees were unaffected with leaf-blight, and in the thriftiest state of growth. L. E. Berkman, formerly of Belgium, informed the meeting that the leaf-blight was unknown there, while cracking of the fruit was frequent; but twenty days in a summer without rain, would be called a dry one. Other members had observed cracking caused exclusively by wet weather.

Cracking seemed in many cases to depend on the soil, and an instance was mentioned where trees of the Virgalieu, on the grounds of T. G. Yeomans, of Wayne County, where the fruit of this variety is always ruined by cracking, were removed to the grounds of a neighbour, and afterwards bore fair and excellent fruit. The disease could not be caused by *exhaustion* of the soil, several instances being mentioned where it had occurred on young trees, on new soil, and in the one case, out of nine or ten, was the only one affected.

As it had been found that young seedlings once affected, were more apt to be troubled with leaf-blight the following year, the opinion was entertained that it was a very small fungus, whose extremely minute seeds were carried through the sap pores to all parts of the plant, and were ready to germinate and develop themselves whenever the wet weather favored their growth on the surface of the leaves. It had been proved that the seed of the little fungus that produces rust in wheat, were carried from the grain or seed, up the stalk in the sap—these seeds being immeasurably smaller than the pores; and it was in accordance with analogy to suppose that the leaf-blight was similarly propagated.

Among the sorts of pears not liable to crack, were named the Ananas d'Ete, Flemish Beauty, Beurre d'Amalis, Bartlett, and others.

TREES ON NEW SOIL.—The question was discussed at some length, whether trees grown on soils which had been previously occupied with trees, and enriched by manuring was as good as those on new soils, or those previously occupied by farm crops merely. The members generally had found a second crop of nursery trees from the same land, inferior to the first, even with considerable manuring, unless some years of 'rest' intervened—which period appeared to vary with the natural strength of the soil from two to eight years. Rotation in tree crops was found important, as well as in farming; for example, it was stated by T. C. Maxwell, of Geneva, that he grew a block of cherry seedlings on land, one-half of which was previously used for dwarf pears, and the other half for cherries. The cherries, after the cherries, were only one-half as large as after dwarf pears. He had grown fine cherries after a crop of peach trees. Some of the members, and especially V. Barry, thought that trees raised on manured old ground were not so healthy as those on new soil, the latter affording fibrous roots in abundance, while on old soils, made rich with manure, the roots are thick, forked, and few in number.

DWARF PEARS FOR ORCHARD CULTURE.—Many interesting statements were made on this subject.—Several very striking proofs were furnished of the profits of dwarf orchards. T. G. Yeomans, of Walworth, Wayne County, had large plantations of dwarf trees. They were eight feet apart each way, and were cultivated by two horses walking abreast quite as perfectly as could be done in a garden by hand, and at a less expense than corn and potatoes. His trees are about eight years old. His Angoulemes bear now about a bushel per tree, and sell readily for fifteen dollars per barrel. Many of the pears weigh about a pound. A member stated that he had that very morning measured and estimated half an acre of dwarf Virgalieus on Ellwanger & Barry's grounds, and found that 120 bushels per acre would be below the actual product this unfavourable year, the price being \$3 per bushel. The trees are but six years from the bud. Last year the crop was about the same—the year before, or when but four years from the bud, they yielded at the rate of \$500 per acre. They had a row of Louise Bonne of Jersey, eight years old, that at the