The Canadian Horticulturist

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Notes and Comments.

GRADING SPECIMEN FRUIT.—Sometime ago a scale for sizing specimens of apples for descriptive purposes was given in this Journal. This scale is useless for any fruit beside the apple, and something more general is needed. In our own Ontario Fruit Experiment Stations it has been proposed to give the extreme length and the extreme breadth of all fruit in inches.

In a letter of the 3rd prox., from T. T. Lyon, South Haven, Mich., President of the Michigan Horticultural Society, he writes on the subject as follows:

"In the matter of grading specimen fruits—I sometime since proposed to Pomologist S B. Heiges, to take the medium between the vertical and transverse diameters of a specimen ($\frac{V+T}{2}$) as the measure of size. He did a little experimental measuring upon that plan; and reports that in some cases, giving the *same diameter* when determined as above, there was a real difference of bulk of full 50% as measured by the displacement of water. Therefore I surrendered at once.

I admit that the displacement of water would be an accurate measure of size. But I claim that the *value* of a specimen, for any *useful purpose*, is more exactly expressed by its *weight*. For this reason, and for the reason also that few persons would be likely to provide themselves with the needful graduated vessel for measuring size by the displacement of water, I propose to drop *size* from the list, and to substitute *weight in ounces*, in the description of specimens, since *scales* are readily accessible to every one.

True, this would be a rather wide departure from a universal practice; and yet *weight* will always supply a ready means of approximately determining size when needful. It is intended to describe by weight in our next bulletin.