

the country. A great deal more might be said on the gathering, preserving, and marketing of fruit, but I fear that I have already trespassed on your time for discussion on the different points alluded to.

After the reading of Mr. Leslie's paper, some conversation took place among the members of the Club, upon the subject of fruit culture.

Mr. Leslie in reply to questions, said that he considered the estimates as to productiveness stated in his paper very low. He had known thirty-two barrels of apples to be gathered from three trees in a single year. Such productiveness, however, would not take place two successive years. Trees in Canada would not fail to produce on an average two barrels each. He thought trees in an orchard should not stand more than twenty-five feet apart. When close together they afford mutual protection, and thrived better than under other circumstances.

The Chairman (E. W. Thompson,) asked Mr. Leslie how long he would expect to wait before obtaining a barrel from each tree.

Mr. Leslie said about eight years, although much would depend upon the care bestowed. The produce of the ground in the meantime would repay the labour of cultivation. The best crops are produced from among the trees, and the abstraction from the soil of the nutriment required will not injure the trees. Root crops are to be preferred.

Mr. McDougall said that there was no doubt as to the question whether the cultivation of fruit should be recommended to the farmers of the country or not. That point has been settled in the affirmative. The expediency of setting out orchards should not be discussed merely on the ground of pecuniary gain. Fruit is generally allowed to be essential to health, and to be the natural food of man, though in these northern latitudes he probably requires animal food also. In another point of view, looking at the matter in its ornamental aspect, what is more pleasant to behold than a flourishing orchard with its luscious fruit? In Canada, great difficulty has been experienced in raising apple-trees. They are a long time in bearing, and then yield but little fruit. This was not altogether owing to neglect in cultivation. He was inclined to believe there was something wrong in the tree itself. It had been stated at more than one meeting of fruit-growers in the eastern States that root grafted trees had proved a failure. He would like to know whether it was the practice among nurserymen here to raise trees in this way. He had been told by a practical man that when a scion is placed in the first or upper section of the root it grows far more vigorously than in the lower part. Does not this show that there is a difference in the organisation of the root itself? If so, it would account for the fact that some flourish while others do not. Trees are frequently purchased of travelling peddlers, from the neighboring States, who come here with the refuse of American nurseries. It would be better to purchase of nurserymen nearer home, on whose representations we can rely, and who have a reputation to maintain. It has been stated by a Mr. Field, before the New York Farmer's Club, that if trees are raised in a pyramidal or conical form and with no more of stem than is necessary, that they will begin to bear in a much shorter time, and yield better fruit. The tree may be shorter lived, but it would pay to follow this method, and set out trees more frequently. With regard to the apple borer, he had lately seen it stated that the insect is attracted to the tree by an odour exhaled from the bark in consequence of its exposure to the sun. If the tree was grown close to the ground the evil would in some degree be obviated.

Mr. Leslie said that apple-trees grafted in the root were, in his opinion sounder trees than when grafted above ground.

Mr. Grey said that he was not in favor of root grafting. One plant out of three might grow strong. He agreed with Mr. McDougall, that the system of growing trees with tall stems was not good. The apple borer might be kept from the trees by throwing a small quantity of lime about them. People do not take sufficient care to obtain the best varieties of trees. He would recommend as the best for this country, the Baldwin apple, the Rhode Island Greening, and some others, the names of which our reporter did not catch.

In reply to a question Mr. Leslie stated that the blight upon plum trees, of which he had made mention in his paper, was not caused by the curculio: it is itself a disease. The curculio merely attacks the fruit. The native plum is not liable to the blight. The common blue plum is most liable to be affected with it.

Mr. McDougall said one way to prevent the ravages of the curculio was to plant the trees near a stream or body of water. The instinct of the curculio will lead it to avoid fruit