

culture, have in modern times introduced some really new and more valuable varieties of fruit, too many persons know from sad experience that a great deal of what is called new is either not so, or, at heart not "improved." It has been hinted that Quintinie wrote the above "just after having been swindled by some pedlar who sold him a few dozen plants of Mexican everbearing Strawberries, Naomi, or Mammoth Cluster raspberries. His words certainly do sound very modern. Will some antiquarian tell us whether Palmyra of old had any prominent nurseryman?"

### THE CROPS.

Taking "a conjunct view" to use an ecclesiastical phrase, of the various reports that have come under our eye, together with our own observations and inspections, we are inclined to think that "average" is the word that will best characterize them in a breath. As a whole they are scarcely so good as the model nature of the season would lead us to expect. With the exception of a dropping tendency in many sections during haying and harvest, the season has been most exemplary. We fear that indifferent farming is the key to this year's riddle to the incongruity between the weather and the crops. In reading over the crop returns along the line of the Great Western Railway, we find such statements as the following:

"Fall wheat is very fine but will yield only 15 or 20 bushels per acre." "Estimated yield, fall wheat 10 or 12 bushels per acre; spring wheat 10 to 14 bushels, &c." In various cases, good growth and fine promise are reported along with very meagre averages. The truth is our lands are starved for want of manure, and scratched over instead of being thoroughly tilled. Better farming will tell its tale both when the season is favorable and when it is unfavorable. On the whole we have to rejoice over a plentiful harvest, and while the staples are not deficient, we have an abundance of fruit especially apples, which are, after all among fruits, what wheat is among grains. The yield of honey is better than usual, but most bee-keepers commenced the year short of stocks owing to the losses last winter.

### FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK.

The summer meeting of the above named society was held June 22nd at Geneva, in connection with the Horticultural Society of that place. Unable to attend in person, we have read with interest the reports given by exchanges, from which we learn that owing to the prevalence of dry weather, the display of fruit was rather limited although it embraced a good many varieties of strawberries, cherries, currants and gooseberries. A seedling gooseberry about the size and shape of the well-known English "Whitesmith" was exhibited by Mr. Siner of Geneva, which has thus far been free from mildew. Should this on further trial prove a permanent characteristic,

the new berry will be hailed with a cordial welcome, by hosts of gardeners, both professional and amateur, who are weary of growing that little apology the "Houghton," though glad of it when all others fail. A strawberry of large size and showy appearance was on exhibition, which its originator proposes to name the "Panic," in token let us hope, of its effect on rival berries, rather than on eaters of it. There was a choice display of flowers and foliage plants; conspicuous among them the Golden banded Lily, the miniature Ampelopsis, and a very fine collection of double geraniums shown by Mr. Charlton of Rochester. Discussions were had on ornamental tree planting, different varieties of fruit, the benefit of thinning out fruit, the best method of warring against the curculio, and apple-tree borer, and other topics.

### ORGANIC MATTER IN WATER.

It cannot be too widely known that impure water is among the most prolific causes of disease among men and domesticated animals. At a recent meeting of the London Chemical Society, Mr. Heisch read an excellent paper on this subject. He had been called to assist a large manufacturer of Canada, who suddenly found it impossible to make an article that would keep; after a day or two it became turbid, and its odor disagreeable. On examining the liquid under the microscope, it was found full of small spherical cells, with, in most cases, a very bright nucleus. After investigating all the materials employed, the water was detected to have this fault. On putting a few grains of the purest crystalline sugar into some of the water, it became turbid in a few hours, and contained the cells previously described.

On further inquiry it was found that a new digging had recently been made in the vicinity of the well, and some drainage was accordingly supposed to have found its way into the well. This induced the experimenter to try various samples of water in the same manner, and in every case when diarrhea or other mischief could be traced to the use of a certain water, when that water was treated with sugar, the same cells made their appearance, usually within 24 hours, if kept at 60° to 70°, and plenty of light was admitted to the bottle containing the fermenting liquid.

As sewage was thus ascertained to be the cause of bringing into activity these cellular germs, Mr. Heisch mixed a minute quantity of sewage with a sugar solution that was free of cells, and found the solution very soon to contain those germs. Experiments with other matter besides sewage were made, but no germs of this particular kind were obtained. Filtering the water through the finest Swedish papers appears to be ineffectual to remove the