

### School Gardens for Teachers.

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**T**HAT school gardens will play a very important part in the new education movement which is being inaugurated in Ontario is the opinion of our foremost educators. Ontario is away behind many of the States and most of the northern countries of Europe in the adoption of school gardens as a part and parcel of her school system. France has more than 28,000 school gardens, and in many of the other European countries state funds are not granted unless a garden is connected with the school. In an article, by me, published in *The Canadian Horticulturist* for July last year, the value of school gardens is fully set forth.

Believing that the school garden is of great value in school work, the directors of the summer school for nature study at the Macdonald Institute, Guelph, decided to have every teacher in attendance make and keep a small garden. Although the usual season for planting gardens was over, yet it was still possible to get many of the seeds to germinate and grow. With the assistance of Mr. W. Hunt, the college florist, the garden plots were marked out by the teachers themselves, the land prepared and the seeds planted. Talks were given at the plots on the preparation of the soil and the use of manures and fertilizers, on the proper planting of the different seeds, on the use of the garden line, on the best way of caring for the plot after the seeds were planted so as to conserve the moisture, and on the care of garden tools.

Each plot was 12 x 12 feet, with paths 18 inches wide between the plots, and each teacher prepared a sketch plan for himself of the plot, which was discussed and criticized, and much valuable information obtained as to the best arrangement of the

rows in the plot. It was pointed out that probably a better sized plot would be 10 x 15, or 10 x 20, in that it could be more readily worked.

Soon after planting heavy rains came. The soil being a heavy clay loam, caked on drying, and there was found the necessity for raking the surface to conserve the moisture and to prevent excessive evaporation. In fact, practical problems came up for solution at every turn. At present writing the seedlings are up nicely and the plots are in good shape and condition. The next problem will be the weeds and the thinning.

### Spraying Mixtures Under Test.

**A** CAREFUL examination was made July 19, 20 and 21 in the Niagara district to ascertain the results of the various experiments made last spring with spraying mixtures for the San Jose scale. The object of the tests was to determine the relative merits of the lime-sulphate wash, the McBain mixture, the sal soda and other combinations. The examination was made by Professors Lochhead and Harcourt, of the Ontario Agricultural College; Inspectors Smith and Hodgetts, of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, and a special committee of the Niagara District Fruit Growers' Association.

The scale began to run a week or more before the date of the examinations, so that the first brood only were showing. All of the remedies were found to have done good work. On unsprayed trees the fruit was in many instances already spotted with the young scale and would soon be rendered unsaleable. Scale-infested trees suffered severely from the winter, and many orchards between St. Catharines and Niagara, that were once considered models, are now completely destroyed. They furnish a terrible example of the destructive work of this scale and of what neglect in its treatment will bring about.