

Talk about Strawberries.

At a recent meeting of the New York Farmers' Club the following conversation respecting strawberries is reported to have taken place:—

"Which is the best sort? C. Taber, the market reporter of the *Tribune*, says this question is quite as unsettled as it was a year ago. None of the fancy sorts seem to increase in market. A few new kinds make their appearance every year, have a short run, and then are heard of no more. *Triomphe de Gand*, *Union* and *Austin*, show less this year than last. The sort which made the greatest sensation a year or two ago, the *Agriculturist*, is scarcely to be found in market. Perhaps those who have this sort are growing plants for sale. They certainly do not grow fruit for market. The few offered look well, but marketmen say they are too soft to carry or keep well. The *Triomphe de Gand* loses ground every year. The fruit is good, appears well, but the plants are not reliable for a crop. Wilson's still takes the lead, and comes out a long way ahead. Growers maintain there is more money in it than in any other variety. The *Early Scarlet* and *Scotch Runner*, small as they are, have paid well the present season. After all, it is a difficult matter to give advice about the varieties of strawberries, for a kind which does well in certain localities with one kind of culture may fail entirely in another locality with different culture. Wilson's succeeds over wider range than any other. Upon the whole, growers differ about as much in their opinions as they did one year ago—some of them say they know less.

"The Committee of the Club which went out last week to Newark to look at the Durand Seedling strawberry in Mr. Brill's garden, made a report, and also read a letter from Mr. Durand, giving a description of its origin and character. He states it to be a hybrid of *Triomphe de Gand*, *Green Prolific*, *Peabody's Seedling*, and we think one other sort. As several members remarked they didn't see how it could have four fathers. This is its third year, and of course first year of bearing to any extent, and although a handsome berry, of large size, prolific, rich scarlet colour, remarkably firm, and growing with strong rich foliage, some members of the Club are not as yet prepared to endorse it as the very best strawberry yet produced, and as likely to supersede all others.

Colon Robinson said he had heard the same story of at least a dozen different kinds. A few years ago, this same Peabody, *Green Prolific* and *Triomphe de Gand* was each in turn to supersede all other varieties. Each in its turn has gone, or is going to a state of oblivion. I know of but one kind of strawberry which has stood the test of cultivation for market in almost all sections of the country, and that is the *Wilson*, much despised by some because it is sour, yet much relied upon because it will grow and produce fruit, where many of the fancy sorts have proved magnificent failures in spite of grandiloquent recommendations.

Hints on Transplanting Evergreens.

The warm summer months, now at hand are the best time in the year for transplanting evergreen trees, and a few short hints on the subject may not be amiss. A large percentage of nursery-grown evergreens, and probably three-fourths of these trees taken from the forest, are killed out-right in transplanting, simply on account of ignorance of the necessary precautions to be taken in their treatment at the time they are transplanted and afterwards.

The principal thing to be observed is, never to let the roots see the sun, or feel the wind, long enough to lose their surface moisture. The reason for this is not agreed upon by all vegetable physiologists. Hon. John H. Klippart, so widely known in connection with Ohio agricultural matters, in a conversation on the subject, gave me, as his opinion, that the bark of the roots of evergreens, and many other plants, is as sensitive to light as are the chemicals of the photographer, and that the rays of sunlight, either direct or refracted, produce a chemical change in the bark, or vessels therein, injuring them to a greater or less extent. In support of this theory, Mr. Klippart can certainly show some good evidences. Evergreens, and some wild flowers and plants from the woods, in his grounds at Columbus, Ohio, are much thrifter if transplanted in the night!

My own theory is, that if the sap in the roots, which is more or less resinous, is suffered to become even partially dried by the sun or wind, it (the sap) is rendered thicker, and becomes almost, or quite, indissoluble, choking up the vessels of ducts, and thus rendering the roots incapable of assimilating the necessary food for the growing tree from the surrounding soil.

Whatever the theory, the fact remains, that if the roots of evergreens are kept moist and shaded from the sun, these trees are, as a class, more sure to grow when transplanted than any other living plants, except some weeds.

Furthermore, if possible, get the evergreens from a good nurseryman, who is a good propagator, and, if to be shipped for any distance, who will pack the trees so that the roots will keep moist, and the foliage and branches cool and dry. Nursery-grown trees are already prepared as to their roots for transplanting, many or all the rootlets remaining on the roots, while trees from the forest unavoidably lose nearly or quite all the rootlets, unless the trees are very small when transplanted.

As to the time of year, from the first of May to the end of August is as good as any time, provided always that the roots are kept covered and moist. I have taken hemlock from the woods in August with better success than in April or May. They seem to do better when the sap is in motion than before or after.

Lastly, set out plenty, and you will get the benefit, and also the thanks of the next generation.—*CHARLES in Horticulturist*.

Dwarf Apple Trees.

The culture of dwarf apple trees (i. e., worked on the paradise stock) is yet very limited in our country, and it is only within a few years that they have attracted any attention, but as they become better known, and their real value appreciated, they will, we are sure, be considered almost as indispensable as the pear. They are less particular as to soil than the pear, grow quite as readily, occupy but little more space than a currant bush, and bear three to six dozen of large and beautiful fruit each. Besides this, they are so completely within the control of the cultivator, that if the canker worm attacks the trees, they can easily be destroyed by the application of whale oil soap. Now that this pest is so destructive to orchard trees, the bush apples supply their place, and the same ground, covered with a dozen or two trees, will produce nearly the same quantity as a standard, and much larger and more beautiful fruit.—*Home's Mag.*

ARAUCARIA EXCELSA.—The Norfolk Island pine—in its island home is a splendid tree, being thickly scattered everywhere; many specimens standing singly are furnished to the ground, forming the most perfect pyramids that can be conceived. The average height of the tree would seem to be about 100 feet, but one fine old specimen measured 36 feet in circumference at the base, and must have been considerably over 150 feet high.—*John G. Veitch, in the Gardeners' Chronicle*.

MOSS ON FLOWER POTS.—Ladies who are fond of cultivating flowers in the house, will find great benefit to the plants by spreading a coat of moss over the earth in their flower pots. This keeps the water from evaporating, and the temperature more uniform. Tea grounds are often used for the same purpose. Where a flower pot sets in a saucer, with a hole in the bottom of the pot, put a little sand in the saucer and cover it with moss, and you have a simple and admirable arrangement.—*Et.*

STOPPING THE BLEEDING OF GRAPE VINES.—Though too late for use this year, we give two methods recently proposed. A correspondent of the *American Horticulturist* writes, that having to move an old vine, he cut it back and covered the wounds with copal varnish when obliged to prune in spring, and finds it stops the bleeding. A writer in the *Journal of Horticulture* wipes the end of the vine dry, and covers it with a stiff paste of cement (hydraulic lime.) The application is repeated two or three hours after the first one, and the bleeding effectually stopped.

THE ONION.—An American exchange discourses on this subject as follows:—"I never eat onions," said a simple and would-be fashionable girl. Now we will venture to say she eats slate-pencils, clay, brick, and pickles, and says they are "splendid." We have no patience with such sentimentalism, that prompts persons to talk so much against onions, and leads to the ignoring the use of a good and healthful vegetable, because it is fashionable to decry its terribly offensive odour, while they perfume themselves with the nasty scent of a muskrat. Verily has it been said, there's no accounting for taste."

NEW ROSES. The *Farmer* states that at the Crystal Palace Rose Show on 23d, and that of the London Royal Horticultural Society on the 28th June, the first prizes for new roses were taken by Messrs. Paul & Son, Chesham, on whose stands the following were the leading kinds: Paul de la Meilleray, Xavier Olibo, Princess Mary of Cambridge, Madame Ambroise Verschaffelt, Marie Boisse and Baronne de Maynard, both whitish hybrid perpetuals; Michel Bonnet, Exposition de Brie, Frederick Biborel Duchesse de Caylus, La Duchesse de Morny, F. de Holmes, Prudence Besson, and Maréchal Souhel Charles Rouillard, Alfred Colomb, Madame Fillion Marguerite de St. Amand, Josephine de Beauharnais—the yellow tea Maréchal Niel.

MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS.—The building for the new laboratory at the Botanic Gardens has been furnished and fitted up with the necessary apparatus and a series of experiments commenced, under the direction of Mr. Muller, for the extraction of tannic acids, potash, &c., from the various woods in the colony, with a view to preparing a tabular statement of their respective products, and also that specimens may be in readiness for the forthcoming exhibition. It is also intended to test the various natural products of the colony, as to their suitability for paper material, and to prepare various raw materials in a fit state for export. It may be mentioned that the essential oils prepared from the leaves of the *Eucalypti*, &c., in a similar series of experiments, undertaken prior to the last exhibition, have now become articles of commerce.

DOUBLE-FLOWERING PELARGONIUM—LADY VICTORIA SCOTT.—This novelty is one of those which cultivators designate, for convenience, true or stage pelargoniums. It is pure white, of remarkable substance, and stout robust habit. A specimen was exhibited by Messrs Carstairs & Sons—who are sending it out—at a meeting of the Edinburgh Botanical Society on the 10th inst., which elicited general admiration, not only from the beauty of its double flowers, but also for the regular rotundity of their form. These varied from an inch and a-quarter to an inch and a-half in diameter, resembling somewhat those of the double-flowered gean—*Cerasus sylvestris flore pleno*, and the *Mérisier Hanuuculer* of the French—this regularity in form being rare in flowers like pelargoniums and violets, which, in their original or natural state, are each composed of five petals, in three different forms and sizes.—*The Farmer (Koman)*.

"PRUNING TREES TO LET THE SUN IN." A few days since, happening to go through a friend's young orchard of apple trees, we found them all pruned, with the heads, or leaders, mostly cut out, and the bare branches and centre of the tree fully exposed to the full blaze of the sun. We asked the why and the answer was, "It was done to let the sun in." We said nothing, but thought myself that, in this clear, sunny climate, where shade is essential to vegetable life at mid-day, our friend must have been conversing with some old country gardener, whose practice had been in a climate of moisture, and where to obtain sun, not shade, was a part of his routine. As a rule, more injury than good is done by this severe pruning. Cut away all crossing branches or twigs; shorten in all that incline to grow too strong and throw the tree out of shape; cut away some few little weak shoots and then throw away your knife, rather than mutilate the tree by cutting its limbs and causing it to try for us life by sending up water-sprouts.—*Horticulturist*.

GRAPE-GROWERS.—We have received the Report of the Northern Ohio and Lake Shore Grape-Growers' Association for 1865-6. Its next show will be held at Cleveland, in October. As to the extent of grape culture in the district covered by this Society's operations, Mr. F. R. Elliott, the former Secretary after much inquiry and observation, has published his opinion that previous to the planting of the spring of 1866, there were not less than six thousand acres of grapes in the Lake Shore region, including the Islands. And the President estimates that at least 1,000 acres more have been planted in vineyards the current season. Of the amount of wine manufactured in this region, the past year, Mr. Elliott gives the following estimates:

"The section east of Cleveland, 40,000 gallons; the section west of Cleveland, 150,000 gallons; Cleveland and its immediate vicinity, 89,000 gallons, in all, 279,000 gallons. The value of this wine at wholesale prices is between five and six hundred thousand dollars. Had the entire grape crop of last year been made into wine, the product would have been 2,000,000 gallons."—*Co. Genl.*