

WHITESMITH GOOSEBERRIES.

SIR,—An article from T. Beall, of Lindsay, in October number anent large and small Whitesmith gooseberries, requires a few comments. I wish to inform Mr. Beall that the sample sent by me was not the largest I had as the branch contained large and small, and taking productiveness into account it was a sample not easy to beat. Mr. Beall ought to have born in mind that his sample was selected berries taken from a gallon. However I congratulate him on his large gooseberries and hope he will long produce more of them. I grow every season specimens weighing more than the weight given by him which is nearly one half ounce each. The largest I ever grew were this season's product, but the long continued rains burst all the largest ones. I have not any of the English prize-taking varieties, they being worthless except for that purpose; some of the berries are of enormous size and such as the London Red weigh 33 penny weights or about one and one half ounces. We cannot reach such dimensions as these with our present marketable varieties.

I fully endorse the proposition by Mr. Beall for parties in different sections to send samples for you to test and report in the journal; it would be a good stimulant to produce the best of a much relished fruit but the test I think ought to be of different varieties. I am sure the growers here will court competition as we flatter ourselves we can grow gooseberries equal to any part in Ontario, we can grow them also without mildew. Ever since I discovered—ten or twelve years ago—how to treat them, I did not

lose over two quarts up to this season which was the worst I ever experienced, every variety that would mildew did so; even the Downing had to submit. However I have several seedlings that were mildew proof and which I consider the best in my possession but even with the unfavorable season my loss was only about 4 quarts in 400 and I could have reduced it to zero if time had permitted, this showing I consider is without a parallel. But I fear a worse enemy to contend with is the white grub which destroys the bush altogether and seems to be a hopeless case for any remedy. This season I dug up 20 bushes to make room for others, I was surprised to find that all of them were affected, none had fewer than four while one had as many as seven all busy gnawing at the fibrous roots. A few years ago I lost 30 bushes by the same pest. Mr. Brooks of this place a large gooseberry grower, having about 1400 plants had to dig up 90 bushes that were unhealthy by the same cause. Perhaps an oil lamp with a large glass surface lighted in the evenings to trap and burn the large brown beetle—progenitor of the grub—might mitigate the evil, and perhaps powdered glass put thickly around the bushes to prevent beetles from burrowing. Our experimenters have plenty future work to do.

An article on page 391 by E. Hersee of Woodstock, on selling unripe gooseberries expresses the opinion I have long held on the subject.

Thanking you for the space taken in your excellent journal.

F. W. PORTER, *Mount Forest.*