

❖ New or Little Known Fruits. ❖



EVERY week we receive quite a number of samples of new varieties of fruit from various parts of Ontario, many of which appear to us to have great merit.

While we have no interest whatever in the advantage which may accrue to any nursery or individual, through the publication of the merits of any of these new varieties, yet it is the duty of our Association, and one of its important objects, to encourage, by all proper means, the production of new and improved varieties of fruit, suitable for our Canadian climate. Indeed, it is from these that we are to expect those fruits, which will be most profitable for our commercial fruit growers. The cultivated fruits, which originate in any country, are usually better adapted to succeed in that country than foreign varieties. This is plainly demonstrated in the case of the foreign grapes, most of which are subject to mildew with us, while our natives of the *Labrusca* type are so little affected. The same is also true of our gooseberries; those of American origin, such as Smith, Downing, Triumph, Pearl, Ruby, Sutherland's Seedling, and others to which reference is made in these pages, being so entirely free from that terrible disease.

During the last month a number of new varieties of gooseberries have been sent in to us for our opinion, and certainly many of them possess a very high degree of merit, introducing a new era of profitable gooseberry culture into Ontario. Certainly this fruit has, to a large extent, been neglected by our market gardeners, and the price, which this fruit brings, plainly indicates that, with proper varieties, there would be plenty of money in the business.

A sample of the Pearl gooseberry, to which reference was made last season, lies before us on the table, and certainly bears out all that we have stated concerning its productiveness, and yet, notwithstanding the enormous load of fruit which it bears, the berries are of a good size and excellent quality.

We have also before us a sample of the Ruby, a berry much of the same size as the Pearl, but of better quality. This, however, does not appear to be so productive as the latter.

The Pearl is being tested in our own grounds at Maplehurst, and another year we shall have more to say concerning it.

Below will be found notes of letters from some of the parties sending us samples of fruits, together with a few remarks concerning them. It must, however, be borne in mind that anything which we may say under this head is based upon the appearance of the sample sent us and, therefore, must not be given too much weight.