

tion. We have waited long, and we think that we may wait in vain, for some public-spirited individual among our members to step forward and show the importance of this matter and push it to a practical conclusion. The Provincial benefits for such an institution are not far to seek, being apparent on the surface. The good results likely to accrue to our hybridists will present themselves to every thinker.

DISEASES IN PEARS.

I approach with some degree of caution the pear question. The drawbacks to its cultivation are so many and so formidable, that we shrink from saying aught that would lead pear-growers on the ice. It is true that the ravages of the blight have not been so destructive this season as we have seen it on former occasions. But it is still bad enough. We are persuaded that over-cultivation has a good deal to do with pear blight. Trees poorly fed, and worse cared for, seldom blight. The origin of the evil is as inscrutable to-day as it has ever been. Mr. John Pearce, of Toronto township, has written us largely on the origin of the disease, but, alas, for his learned lucubrations, we have a blighted pear tree, at this moment growing in a pot, which blighted on the trunk, was cut down to within an inch or two of the ground, and which is now, the 1st of September, sending up a vigorous shoot, indicating that at least the supposed origin of the disease, the root, is not at fault. Two years ago I cut off in the same way a badly blighted Glout Morceau, and we question if any pear grower among us has a prettier head than that which now graces our, about to be, discarded pear tree. The origin and cure of pear blight are yet to seek. Of new varieties within our knowledge, we can confidently speak of Andre Desportes, Beurre de l'Assomption, Bonne du Puits Ansault, Brockworth Park, Duchesse Precocce, Madame Baptiste Desportes, Madame Andre Leroy, Pitmaston Duchesse, Dr. Reeder, Mount Vernon, Frederick Clapp, and Madame Appert. This year throughout the Province there is an abundant crop rewarding the care, patience, and assiduity of the horticulturist. Such is the record of the season which we now present to you.

We trust that in the experience of every one interested in Horticulture, the recapitulation may prove its truthfulness and impartiality. We could wish that our annual address here ended, as we fear that our reflections and presentations of facts may be tedious to the practical horticulturists here present.

THE PROGRESS OF HORTICULTURE.

At the risk of wearying you, my duty calls upon me still further to notice the advances we have made in horticulture and kindred subjects during 1879. First in order comes the new fields of labour on which we have agreed to enter. At a recent meeting of your Directors, they unanimously agreed to recommend to the Government, that we be clothed with a new name indicating the new subjects sought to be taken under the auspices of this Association. The new name indicates the whole of our responsibility—Horticulture, Floriculture and Forestry; we miss the mention of the vegetables in our designation. Our worthy Secretary, ever fertile in suggestions, may have seen means for remedying this defect. Defect it is, no doubt, for a more important branch of horticultural interest, scarcely exists. There are few subjects under our care, that tend more to the comfort, health and happiness of our citizens than the vegetable garden; somehow, few businesses are more despised than that which furnishes such healthy contributions to our tables. In this department of horticulture, as in all its departments, vast progress is being made in hybridizing new varieties. Our efficient editor of the *Horticulturist* can do much in furthering this branch of our art in recording and bringing to public notice such triumphs of the hybridizer as are to be seen in Dempsey's hybrid tomato and Arnold's garden pea.

FLORICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

Some of our members speak of horticulture with bated breath, as if it were beneath the dignity of a fruit culturist to care for such evanescent creations, and as if it were some-