

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MICHIGAN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

MY DEAR SIR,—The annual meetings of the above society were held in the city of Flint, Mich., December 4th, 5th and 6th, and as I was permitted to be present for the first time at their meetings, I would like to give you and your readers a few notes regarding it and its work, hoping that it may be of interest to them. The city of Flint is the capital of Genesee County, and is one of those American cities, or rather towns, that to be seen is to be admired. It has a wealthy population of some 10,000 people, and has all the advantages of modern city life. It has two railroads coursing through its limits, crossing each other, viz., the Grand Trunk and Chicago R. R. and the Flint and Pere Marquette R. R., which affords it every accommodation. It is beautifully located on an eminence bordered by the river from which it took its name, which river rises some distance to the east, and after tracing Lapeer, Genesee and Saginaw counties, empties into the Saginaw river. It was formerly a noted lumbering centre, but since the supply is now very much reduced, its principal industries are manufactures in the useful arts, commerce, &c. Here is one of the finest buildings erected in the interests of higher education that is to be found in that State, and is said to have cost one hundred thousand dollars. Here also is the noted Institute for the education and training of deaf mutes, where large numbers of these unfortunates are cared for and qualified for lives of usefulness. The streets of the city are wide and well ventilated, and everywhere made cheerful and beautiful by being liberally planted with shade and ornamental trees, mostly of our choice and popular sugar maple.

The streets are laid out at right angles and the soil is high, dry, and easily drained, having a gentle slope every way to the river.

The Society was holding their meeting in Flint on the invitation of the Genesee County Horticultural Society, who made ample arrangements for the comfortable accommodation of all delegates and members who might favor them with their presence, either free in private houses or at reduced rates at the hotels. The place of the meetings was Convocation Hall, in the High School building, and was very ample for a large attendance, and purposely decorated for the occasion. The room was large and well seated, and the walls were embellished by large and handsome charts illustrative of Prof. Beal's lecture on botany, entitled the "Growth of a tree." The dais contained the President's and other chairs and the desks for the reporters, &c., and was beautifully set off by many pots of ornamental green-house plants, many of which were in bloom. The raised fruit stands along the whole width of the large hall were almost covered in their great extent by the largest and finest display of fruits, vegetables, &c., that ever I saw at a fruit meeting of this kind. In fruit there were apples in large quantities, pears, grapes and oranges, besides dried fruit; jelly and honey, marmalades and amber syrups. In vegetables there were potatoes in enormous quantities, cabbages, cauliflowers, turnips, celery, &c., all of which were very fine indeed, and the interest taken in the display was constant and great. The first sitting was opened at about eight o'clock, in presence of some two or three hundred members, &c., by an address of welcome by the mayor of the city, and was very happy and well received, the President, in the chair, replying, after which Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Agricultural College,