

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

**Aphis and Rose Thrip.**—At our Cobourg meeting a paper was read by Mr. Jackson, of Port Hope, on the Rose, and in the discussion he advised spraying the foliage with a strong solution of whale oil soap and extract of tobacco, using 20 parts of the former to one of the latter. This, he said, would rid the bushes of the pests. The extract of tobacco can be purchased in pint bottles at drug stores.

**Deep Rooted Trees** are advocated by Richards, of Texas, as a means of withstanding the effects of drouth. He claims that trees should be so pruned and trained that they send down their roots deep into the subsoil, and argues that the deeper rooted they are, the healthier, the longer lived and the more productive they will average. We shall be glad of the views of our readers who have been observant of these conditions. In our own opinion such treatment would not be altogether advantageous, for the nearer the surface the roots lie, the more easily can they be fed with surface manuring.

**A Fruit Grader** to separate our various fruits into uniform sizes has become a necessity of the age. It is impossible to grade by the eye to such exactness as is necessary. This was plainly shown by the reports of inspectors at Montreal, who, having examined fruit so graded, warned the packers that they had found in their packages three specimens out of ten that were below the grade size. This variation may not have been more than 1/8 of an inch, and not noticeable to the best educated eye, and yet was sufficient to subject the shipper to a fine and to the publication of his name as that of a person guilty of fraud.

The expense of buying a grader is therefore one of the necessities of the man who desires to ship graded fruit. Fortunately such a machine, invented here in Ontario by Mr. A. H. Pettit, of Grimsby, was shown at our Cobourg meeting last December, and we hope it will soon be placed upon the market.

**Nitrification.**—Wis. Bul. 85 gives results of some investigations of the variations in the amount of Nitric nitrogen and soluble salts in the soil under different conditions of cropping and culture, concerning the amount required for healthy growth, etc.

It was found that soil stirred once in two weeks was left, after ninety-one days, with 53 lbs. of Nitric nitrogen per million of dry soil, and that stirred once a week left the same quantity of soil with 98 lbs. of Nitric nitrogen. It was found that the largest amount was developed during an interval of 258 days by stirring to a depth of three inches; a less or greater depth not giving as good results.

**Large vs. Small Fruit Farms.**—The question of the over production of fruit is considered anew year after year, and the occasional gluts in our markets and the low prices returned us often give great reason for anxiety lest we soon reach the day when prices do not give any surplus over the cost of production. And this day will not be very far distant if we continue to grow scrubs, for in these days a glut of trash is easy to bring about; but a glut of large sized, highly graded fruit, with fine color and first quality, has never yet occurred. These immense apple orchards of the Western States are unwieldy and the results unsatisfactory. Mr. G. T.