

of six. The canes are of smaller growth than those of the Snyder—which is an advantage, and produce a large crop of fruit, which is of a symmetrical, oblong shape, good medium size, of a shining black color, and as has been said, of an exquisitely delicious flavor—no twang left after eating and no core in the centre to be masticated or swallowed whole, as with Kittatinny. The Taylor also has one peculiarity which forcibly struck all our berry pickers who picked the fruit this year, viz, the absence of sunscald which was so common this season.”

SINGULAR FREAKS.

THERE is in Mr. L. Harwood's garden, in the West Ward, a Siberian crab tree, which has been bearing about four years, that is covered with blossoms, but has not had a leaf on this season.—*Orillia Packet*.

MR. W. H. KENT, of Medonte, on going to examine his fruit blossoms this spring, found that one tree, off which he had gathered fifteen bushels last autumn, was completely laden with small apples, which must have formed in the fall, after the fruit had been gathered. What effect this will have on the tree he cannot predict, never having heard of such a phenomenon, but he fears it will kill it.—*Orillia Packet*.

BOOK NOTICES.

PREMIUMS OFFERED AT THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR, to be held at Omaha, 10th September, continuing for six days.

COMPLETE GUIDE TO SILK CULTURE, by *L. Cypsaell* published by W. B. Smith & Co., New York. In this little volume the author, Secretary of the New York Silk Exchange, has given in the shortest possible space concise and practical directions in every detail of silk culture; Silk-feeding Trees, and how to Raise them; Cocooneries; Eggs, and how to Hatch them; the Rearing of Silk-worms; Races, Varieties, and Value; Gathering, Stiffing, and Packing Cocoons; Reproduction; Reeling, and Spinning, and Requisites for Silk Culture are plainly described and illustrated. The wide and promising field which, at present, is opening for

American silk culture, which cannot but develop into a most important industry, in the near future, makes the publication of such a work most desirable.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

SHARPLESS STRAWBERRY.—**MR. D. C. HOMNELL**, of Knoxville, Tenn., shows up a strawberry of the “Sharpless” variety that measured eight and one-quarter inches in circumference.

ARE SMALL FRUITS PROFITABLE.—A fruit grower who has had considerable experience in the business says that small fruits as an average, such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, grapes, etc., yield, as a rule, double the profit of apples, pears, peaches, plums, for the reason, principally, that small fruits come immediately into bearing, and produce every year. Prices are more equal from year to year, varying less than apples and pears.—*Prairie Farmer*.

WATERLOO PEACH.—This is the largest very early peach we have grown or seen. The first specimen ripened July 14th, and measured 10 inches in circumference. All the fruit was gathered and mostly over-ripe, on the 19th of the same month. It ripened about three days in advance of the Alexander. It is a remarkable keeper, ripe specimens have been kept in perfect condition nearly a week after being picked. It will therefore be valuable for shipping.—*Fruit Recorder*.

VALUE OF THE SUNFLOWER.—It is the best egg-producing food known for poultry, keeping them in a thriving condition and largely increasing the production of eggs. Every poultry raiser who tries it will find that this seed is the food known for glossing the plumage of fowls, and is almost indispensable to those who want to fit their birds for exhibition to the best advantage. The Russian sunflower is easily raised, requires very little care, can be grown in fence corners or other places difficult to cultivate. Its production of seed is immense, yielding often at the rate of one hundred bushels to the acre. It should be planted in hills four feet apart, any time from the tenth of May to the first of July. Three quarts of seed will plant an acre.—*Iowa Homestead*.