

the judges who acted at the late Exhibition were brought from a distance, and though, owing to the number required, the expense has been considerable (about \$125), still it is far the most satisfactory plan to pursue, as it effectually prevents all suspicion of partiality having been shown. It is a matter of regret that the handsome prize offered by a member of the Society, for the best bunch of black or white Muscat grapes, drew forth only one competitor. Last year there were only two for a prize of \$30.

It has been thought that the offering of some special handsome prizes might do much towards making the Society's exhibitions fuller and more attractive. This gentleman's experience though has not been very encouraging, and, as something of the same sort has occurred in other sections, it might be advisable to withhold prizes where there is no competition, unless, in the opinion of the directors, the articles exhibited have very special merit. The plan of giving diplomas, medals, books or pieces of plate for some of the largest prizes, or to the winners of the largest number of first-class prizes at the Exhibition, might tend to promote a greater *esprit de corps* among the exhibitors, and tend more to elevate the standard than mere money prizes do. The formation of a library for the use of the members of the Society steadily progresses, and several reports have been secured during the past year. The following valuable works have also been presented to the Society the past year: American Pomology, by Warder, from the President; Downing's Fruits and Fruit Trees of America, from Mr. Cheney; American Fruit Culturist, by J. J. Thomas, from Mr. J. J. Gibb. Immediate steps should be taken to place these books, about 100 in number, in some public library where the members could readily refer to them when they required information. Dr. Hoskins, of Newport, Vt., the agricultural editor of the *State Journal*, has contributed some valuable articles written by himself, which have been preserved in a scrap book for reference. The gross income of the Society for the past year has been \$2,972.45, derived from the following sources: Members' fees, \$1,522. Interest on bank stock and