

kinds of apple and pear trees in some parts of Canada, where they seldom attain to any great age or size. The black walnut again is a tree which has disappointed some of its admirers. For a few years after germination, being a vigorous grower, the rapid production of wood gave so much promise that experimenters were induced to devote considerable areas to its cultivation, only to find after 10 or 15 years that the trees rapidly decreased in vigour and retrograded. This may be due to their having penetrated through the upper layer of suitable soil and reached a colder or less congenial stratum; but, I do not wish to discuss that point now; the unnecessary outlay would not have been made, had it been possible to examine trees of a known age, grown under similar circumstances in a botanic garden. Again on the other hand, a botanic garden would be the means of introducing and distributing through the country new and valuable plants, with the great advantage that those who acquired them would know beforehand whether they were likely to succeed. Botanic Gardens to be of the greatest educational utility should be, of course, thrown open to the public as much as possible, and for that reason should be laid out in an ornamental manner, so that not only botanists, gardeners and specialists may be satisfied when they visit them to study and examine new or rare plants, but, also that they may form attractive places of recreation for the large and important class of mechanics and other labouring classes and their families, consisting in this country of people possessed of considerable education, and, who, when once attracted to one of these gardens, could not but find in it an efficient instrument for refining the taste, increasing their knowledge and augmenting in a very high degree the amount of rational and elevating pleasure available to them. A fertile source of interest in Botanic Gardens is the cultivation and exhibition of the various plants from which foods and other economic products are derived. Interest in these will soon extend to other plants. In the same line of thought is the fostering of a love for flowers in children, and I believe that every child should be taught to wish for a garden of its own. I know of nothing at all which will give such continued and wholesome pleasure to a child as a small plot of garden of which it considers it has the sole proprietorship. If any one wishes to see true pleasure, let them take a seedsman's catalogue, about the