

said that the foreign varieties were generally more productive and more uniformly large, when grown in hills, than when the runners were allowed to remain on the plants.

Mr. Smith observed, that his experience was in favor of spring planting. Mr. Beadle corroborated Mr. Smith's remarks, and stated that there was more risk in fall planting than in spring planting, and no appreciable gain.

Some specimens of Flemish Beauty Pears, covered with a black-looking fungoid growth, were shown by Dr. Cross, and Mr. Mills was requested to make a microscopic examination of them.

Mr. Smith exhibited samples of the early Purple and Governor Wood Cherries. He had found both varieties hardy and productive.

Mr. James Taylor, of St. Catharines, sent up to the meeting four samples of wine of his own making, labelled "Sherry," "Isabella," "Diana," and "Mixed," the last being made from several varieties of grapes. Most of the gentlemen present gave their verdict in favor of the "Diana," first, and the "mixed," second.

Dr. Cross stated that he had been very successful in destroying the gooseberry worm, or saw fly, by putting a tablespoonful of powdered Hellebore in three gallons of water, and applying it to the bushes through a watering pot, by thrusting the rose of the pot into the centre of the plant, and letting the liquid run down the stem to the ground, where the worms, when young, seem to be collected. If neglected until the worms spread over the bushes, it will be necessary to sprinkle the entire plant. Mr. Mill's plan is to clear away all the suckers and underbrush from the currant bushes and gooseberries, and brush the underside of the branches and leaves with a stiff corn brush, which entirely removes the worms and enables him to kill them.

After these interesting discussions and statements of practical experience, the proceedings were brought to a close by passing a vote of thanks to the County Council of the County of Wentworth, for the free use of their Council Chamber.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet at Clair House, Cooksville, near Port Credit station, about the time of the vintage, the day to be named in the Secretary's notice.

Thinning out Fruit.

It may be considered somewhat early to make suggestions on the subject of thinning out fruit, but it can never be too early to give good advice, and we think that as pear and peach trees are beginning to show their products, the thinning out process may be begun at almost any time.

It is true the operation can be performed conveniently only upon such trees as are not over large. But it should be especially attended to in young trees, which frequently overbear, to the great injury of the health of the trees, as well as the quality of the fruit. To obtain the finest specimens of pears, they should not be allowed to grow in clusters or in contact with each other, and all that exhibit the least imperfection should be removed. What is lost in number will be doubly made up in size and flavour. This should be remembered. Many persons regard the thinning out of peaches, pears, and apples as so much loss; but they are not judges of fruit, and have no knowledge of its proper culture. They want as large a crop as possible, letting the quality take care of itself, no matter how much the tree is damaged and what effect it may have on the following year's crop.

It goes hard with some people to diminish the quantity of fruit upon their trees. Sometimes they plead want of time; but this is not admissible, for if they have not time to attend to the proper cultivation of fruit they should abandon it altogether. The real cause is their greediness. You can't make them believe that they are the gainers by destroying a portion of the crop, saying that nature is the best judge as to the quantity of fruit. Such persons have no practical knowledge of fruit raising, and the sooner they give it up the better it will be for them, their pockets and reputation.—*Germanown Telegraph.*

Successful Strawberry Culture.

No one can now be sceptical in regard to the fitness of Canadian soil and climate for the cultivation of strawberries. Of late years especially, there has been a very manifest improvement in this department of horticulture, and we have all seen, both in public nurseries and in private gardens, a prolific growth of this excellent and wholesome fruit, and specimens that would have been creditable in any horti-

cultural exhibition of the old country. We had an opportunity recently of seeing a beautiful dish of strawberries, which it would be difficult to surpass anywhere, and which forcibly reminded us of a similar display in England. These had been grown by Henry Browne, Esq., of Toronto, who informed us that the vines which produced them had been planted last fall. There were two sorts, Fleming's Seedling, and Trollope's Victoria, the specimens which we saw being remarkably fine, even sized, and well grown. We measured several, and found them five inches in circumference; and having the curiosity further to test them by the scales, found them to weigh three quarters of an ounce (troy weight) each. Mr. Browne stated that his method of procuring fresh plants is to place flower pots filled with prepared mould underneath the incipient sets, which, as they grow, send down their roots into the flower pots, and when required for transplanting, can be removed and put in their new bed with scarcely any disturbance to the roots, a most important consideration in successful planting: He prefers fall planting. But we believe the secret of his success is due mainly to the thorough manner in which his ground had been previously prepared by trenching to the depth of two feet; an operation by which a deep bed of finely pulverised, loose and moist earth is provided, in which the roots can freely spread and derive abundant nutriment. Everything in Mr. Browne's garden, which we had an opportunity of inspecting, displays the same luxuriant growth.

Since writing the above we have received from Mr. Leslie, of the Toronto Nurseries, some magnificent specimens of three varieties of strawberries, namely, Trollope's Victoria, Wilson's Albany, and Triomphe de Gand. These fully equalled in dimensions the samples already noticed, and many of the berries of the last named were over six inches in circumference; their figure, however, as all who know the sort are aware, is very different, being much flatter, and looking sometimes as if two had grown together. The fruit altogether made a splendid show, and was of excellent flavor, which, considering the recent long continued drought, so unfavorable for the full maturing of this berry, speaks well both for the skill of the cultivator and the capabilities of our climate. Mr. Leslie has our best thanks for his courtesy.

A very good suggestion is made by Mohr in his new works on grapes, when he recommends that the handles of pruning knives and other implements used in the garden or orchard should be painted a bright red. This would save much trouble in looking for them if lost on the ground.

FLOWERS.—Of all the various mistakes which are made by persons in arranging flowers, the commonest is that of putting too many into a vase; and next to that is the mistake of putting too great a variety of colours into one bouquet. Every flower in a group should be clearly distinguishable and determinable, without pulling the nosegay to pieces; the calyx of a clove pink should never be hid by being plunged into the head of a white phlox, however well the two colours may look together. Sweet peas never look so well in the hand as they do on the boughs over which they climb, because they cannot be carried without crowding them; but put them lightly into a vase with an equal number of pieces of mignonette, or rather, ornament a vase half-full of mignonette with a few blooms of sweet peas, and you get a charming effect, because you follow the natural arrangement by avoiding crowding of the blooms, and putting them with the green foliage which they want, to set them off. Few people are aware, until they try it, how exceedingly easy it is to spoil such a pleasing combination as this; a piece of calceolaria, scarlet geranium, or blue salvia would ruin it effectually. Such decided colours as these require to be grouped in another vase, and should never be placed on the same table with the sweet peas; they also require a much larger preponderance of foliage to set them off to advantage than is wanted by flowers of more delicate colors. It is unquestionably difficult to resist the temptation of "just putting in" this or that flower, because it is such a beauty; a beauty it may be, and so may be an apricot, but it would be out of place in a basin of green pea soup! There is at least one proper place for every flower; and let every flower be in its place.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

Entomology.

Currant Worms Again.

We have received the following note from Mr. J. H. Thomas, of Brooklin, unaccompanied, however, by the promised specimens:—"I send you specimens of the worm which I took to be the canker-worm, and which has existed in abundance in this section for two or three years. This year it commenced its depredations earlier than usual. Gooseberry and black currant bushes are completely stripped of their foliage; many bushes have not a leaf left of their former glory, while upon their leafless limbs still lingers the destroyer, as if mourning that there was no more to devour."

Although we have not yet received the specimens referred to, we have now no doubt whatever that the destroyer of Mr. Thomas' currant bushes is none other than the caterpillar of the well-known currant moth (*Abraxas? ribecaria*, Fitch), and is not a canker-worm. We have lately seen it feeding in numbers on black as well as red and white currant bushes, and also on the flowering currant; the last mentioned it attacked first, and completely stripped of its foliage, and then turned its attention to the fruit-bearing varieties, the black suffering the least. This is the first time that we have ever seen any insect eating the strong-s alling leaves of the black currant.

Abominable Negligence

In a late number of the *London Free Press* there appeared the following paragraph:—

"THE CATERPILLAR PEST.—We learn that in the neighborhood of Port Talbot, and along the lake shore, the caterpillar is making great inroads, and devouring the foliage of fruit trees. In one instance an orchard of thirty acres, which promised a splendid crop, has been completely stripped. The insects have also attacked the forest, and the butternut and basswood trees have had their leaves devoured."

If every man deserved to lose the fruit of his orchard, and to be heavily fined in addition, we should say that it was the owner of that thirty acre orchard. "The caterpillar" that devoured the leaves of his apple trees must, in all probability, have been that well-known and most common pest, the Tent caterpillar, to which we have so often referred in these columns; for no other caterpillar commits such havoc as this in the early part of the season, though there are others that sometimes rival it towards the close of the summer. So much has been said and written about the Tent caterpillar, and so simple and well known are the remedies for it, that there is no excuse whatever for any man allowing his orchard to be devastated by it. It is not an insect that keeps out of sight, like the cut-worm for instance, but its "tents" are white and conspicuous, and are sure to catch the eye of the most casual observer. An occasional walk through the orchard would reveal, even to the most careless, any mischief that was being done by this insect; a neglect to remedy it can only be ascribed to intolerable laziness or abominable negligence. We do not pity the owner of this orchard in the least; for he richly deserves the loss of his fruit, and to be severely punished besides, for he has allowed tens of thousands, if not millions, of these destructive caterpillars to go on unmolested and complete their transformations, and thus ensure an infinitely greater hordo of devastators next year, to ravage not only his own, but also his neighbors' trees. This is the worst of it; if these insects confined themselves to the locality where they were brought up, one would not mind, for then the careless and indolent would alone be the sufferers; but these moths have wings, and soon spread themselves over a large tract of country, to be a plague and nuisance wherever they go. A man who quietly permits these insects