

little trouble, as with the trowel or hand put in the root or plant, pressing the soil firmly about it and then give a good watering with a rose watering-pot to settle the soil before levelling off. In very dry weather, mulch well with litter, moss or manure, which will retain the moisture and keep the earth about the roots cool; and plentiful applications of soap suds and liquid manure should occasionally be given to them, especially about the time they are full grown, as it will then greatly increase the size and benefit the color and fineness of the bloom. They should be staked with permanent stakes at once to prevent injury to the young roots which grow very rapidly when a week or two established. As the plants grow, the lateral or side shoots should be cut off until the desired head is attained, or the leading shoot may be cut out leaving three branches or leading shoots, to each of which a stake should be placed. Or they may be pinned down, never allowing them to grow to a height of more than 15 to 18 inches as the party may fancy.

Sometimes it is advisable to prolong the blooming of some particular flower or flowers, and for this purpose shades are used—made by nailing a shingle to a short pole or stick, the end of which is pointed and stuck into the ground in such a position that the flower is completely shaded from the hot sun. This, however, is usually done only when an extra fine bloom is wanted for exhibition purposes.

GEO. LESLIE & SON.

Toronto Nurseries, }
Leslie P.O., June 2, 1869. }

GOOSEBERRIES.

It is one of the misfortunes of this climate that we cannot raise gooseberries as they do in England, with the certainty of good crops of large fruit. The mildew is almost sure to make havoc of the gooseberries, and spoil them before they reach the period of ripeness. Now and then, but very rarely, they escape. Once only for the past seven years, we were fortunate enough to have a fine yield of magnificent Whitesmiths, the very sight of which made one's mouth water for a taste of them. The American Houghton never mildews, but it is only a

poor apology for the gooseberry, and to an Englishman only revives the painful remembrance of departed joys. Small in size and insipid in flavour, it is almost valueless as a raw fruit, and is useful mainly for cooking and preserving.

Must we give in to this and resign the gooseberry? What are our skilful horticultural neighbours in the United States about that they cannot originate a good seedling gooseberry? One or two varieties have been produced, such as the Downing and Mountain, but from all we can learn they are no great improvement on the Houghton. Cannot the same horticultural skill to which we are so much indebted for seedling strawberries, raspberries, cherries, peaches, &c., not to say seedling potatoes, do something for us in the gooseberry line.

"Wake up Nicodemus," or somebody else, and give us a decent gooseberry that is mildew proof.

Meantime, have we exhausted all expedients to ward off mildew. A friend of ours was accustomed years ago, and is still for aught we know, to get good English gooseberries every year. His bushes were planted in a low, moist part of his garden, under the shade of some high-bush cranberries. We have no doubt the heat and dryness of our climate cause the mildew. It is also pretty certain that old bushes are more liable to be affected than young ones. Might not a succession of young plants, grown in moist soil, mulched, and partially shaded, be fortunate enough to escape mildew, and give us at least every other year a crop of decent, not to say big berries?

CHICKEN-SCRATCHING.

Dr. Trimble says there are two sides to the scratching propensity, which deters most people from keeping hens in a garden. True, you cannot have hens, or even young chickens, among the flower-borders, after the ladies have had their plants set out. But in the winter and early spring, scratching can do no harm, and until we know how many insects they find, we cannot estimate the good they do. Their feet are formed in part for scratching—it is natural to them, and they begin very early in life.

The greatest number of insects undergo their transformation, and are in their chrysalis stage under ground. Others hibernate in the winter just under the surface. Without the power of scratching, hens would seldom find these, and they are what they scratch for.