

THE FRUIT EXPERIMENT STATION.

Sir,—Being at the meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association when they were discussing the establishment of an Experimental Station in the interest of fruit growers, I will add my opinion to those expressed in the meeting. Would it not answer the purpose as well, to have a fund for experimental purposes without the station? To illustrate, take the "Excelsior Peach" for example (a gentleman in the meeting said it was a cling stone, I see by description in *American Agriculturist*, it is a free stone). The price was said to be \$1.00 per tree single, or \$25.00 per 100 trees. Now, if there was an experimental fund, buy 100 trees, and after supplying the present stations, divide the balance into lots of two each, and send to trusty fruit growers all over the province from Windsor to Ottawa, and from Niagara to Owen Sound, to report on the hardiness of the tree, and character of the fruit.

Thus, the value of the tree would soon be known, and the section of the country in which it would succeed. Whereas, if it was tested at a station, it would take as long time to test it, and the test would only be of value for that immediate locality, and individuals in other localities would lose as much more time to find out if it would suit them. Or, if the 100 trees was retailed at wholesale price, I think there are very few fruit growers who would grudge 50 cents for two trees, when they would not give one dollar for one tree. You will thus see the drift of my idea, which is to test new fruits or plants, over as wide a section of country, in as short a time as possible, and with as little expense. I would like to emphasize what one speaker said about growers confining themselves more to such fruits as they could grow to perfection.

R. R. HUNTER.

Dundas, Dec. 29, 1891.

THE KENTISH COB-NUT.

SIR,—In answer to numerous enquiries regarding the English cob-nut, I would state, there was an extra crop this year, something over a bushel to the dozen trees; the young trees four or five years of age also bore well. Mr. H. E. Van Deman, Pomologist of Washington, is introducing and recommending the English cob for planting in the States. By request, I forwarded him a specimen of the nut last year. This nut does not become hollow, nor has it that rank taste from age as the Spanish nut. I have some gathered in 1889 still sweet and sound. Planted twelve feet apart, I judge to be the proper distance, unless for a wind break, then six feet: fertilizing like corn. I would not advise planting a tree by itself.

E. WARDROPER, *Pelee Island, Ont.*

❖ Our Book Table. ❖

MEEHAN'S MONTHLY for December contains a beautiful colored plate of *Sarracenia Purpurea*, or side-saddle flower. This magazine is one of especial interest to all gardeners and fruit growers who have the slightest interest in the study of botany. Magazines devoted to that science are now far beyond the reach of amateurs; even botanical students can scarcely appreciate them, unless each is provided with a first-class microscope. But in *Meehan's Monthly*, we have the various native plants brought before us, one by one, in a way that will interest the amateur botanist. A monogram is written showing its history and its botanical relationship, its peculiarities and its habitat in a very interesting style. In addition to that, much attention is given to general gardening and fruit growing. It is published by Thos. Meehan & Sons, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa., U. S.

FRUIT GROWING FOR PROFIT, is the title of a pamphlet published by W. O. Creighton, a graduate of the Nova Scotia Provincial Agricultural College, and editor of the *Maritime Agriculturist*. This work is calculated to encourage fruit growing for profit in Nova Scotia, and is, on the whole, a creditable production. It is evident, however, from some details of operations there, that we in Ontario are in advance of the Nova Scotia orchardists in our methods of handling fruits.