

among the audience at pleasure any perfume or any combination of perfumes which his or her taste might suggest, to be succeeded by other combinations in like manner, as the different chords in music follow each other to produce harmony and melody.

I do not at the present time intend to suggest anything quite so complicated for the gratification of our organs of taste; indeed, it would be rather a comical spectacle to see a whole audience with their mouths open, like a nest of young birds, waiting to be filled with some combined extract of the different kinds of berries, but I will tell my readers how they can for themselves pick and eat to their satisfaction, or mix up a dish of strawberries that shall leave nothing to be desired.

In the first place allow five or six berries on each plant to ripen before any are picked, and if you wish to eat them from hand to mouth, take all the ripe berries from one plant and eat them together, and the acidity of the underripe will be corrected and improved by the sweetness of the older berries, and you will be sure of a luscious mouthful. Gather in the same way *ad libitum* for a dish, and you will have one whose delicious qualities it will be hard to beat. It is not expected that you will eat six berries at one mouthful should they attain the size of the Sharpless, as represented in the July number of the HORTICULTURIST. When I made this discovery I was cutting down the weeds from between the rows of a new plantation with a wheel-hoe. These plants had not been picked over for market, and therefore the berries were in all stages of ripeness; and when I learned what a rich treat each plant was capable of affording me, I am afraid the wheel-hoe made more stoppages than was necessary. I found it easy to persuade myself, however, that pushing that implement through those overgrown weeds was too hard work to be continuous, and that nature, as represented in the person of the writer, required rest; and with those delicious clusters waiting to be plucked,

I could not bear to pass them by with cold, unfeeling stare;

I could not bear to leave them, for I knew how sweet they were.

But what about the healthfulness of fruit? Here I must say I have hitherto been somewhat undecided, from the fact that I have found some kinds, apples particularly, to disagree with me. I therefore could not enter into a wholesale eulogium of its virtues as others have done, but have contented myself with supposing that my case is an exception to the general rule, and that to the great majority it is