

## NOTES ON SOME GOOD RUSSIAN APPLES.

**The Arabka**—Here is another "family" of Russian apples, the so-called Arab family, variously named "Arab," "Arabian," "Arabskœ" and "Arabka." The one of these introduced some years ago by the nursery firm of Ellwanger & Barry, of Rochester, N. Y., has been approved by them, and is really in some respects quite a remarkable apple. As shown at the meeting of the Montreal Horticultural Society, in January, by Mr. Chas. Gibb, the Arabka is a large, dark red fruit, near the size of Alexander, but less even in form, being roundish, a little flattened, and somewhat "probulgent," or irregular. The tree is very vigorous, and an early and profuse bearer; the fruit is fair and even in size, a good keeper until midwinter, in Canada. Mr. Gibbs' trees, four or five years set, gave him nearly a barrel each. The flesh of this apple is coarse and not above the culinary grade, but its showiness and productiveness will make it quite as profitable to grow as Alexander, at least. In some respects it is preferable, as it is a better keeper, and apparently far less frequently injured by the codlin worm.

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**The Switzer.**—The Switzer apple, one of the "Government Russians," imported by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1869-70, shows itself a thoroughly iron-clad and a remarkably fine grower, both in nursery and orchard. It is a large and handsome red apple, and the tree is a heavy bearer. On a light soil, it drops a good deal of its fruit in the course of the season, but carries a fair crop to maturity. Grown in Northern Vermont and Quebec, it keeps until the holidays, or later. At the last winter fruit meeting of the Montreal Horticultural Society, Mr. Charles Gibb said of the Switzer, "It is not an acid apple; it has no weak points about it, and it has the special merit that it is not quickly perishable. It is of good, fair, even size. It has what is called 'reINETTE' flavor." Mr. R. W. Shepherd, Jr., said, "I agree with Mr. Gibb. The Switzer is in quality much more like Fameuse than any Russian I have ever tasted." To compare any apple to Fameuse is a rare compliment from a Canadian. The Switzer is much larger than Fameuse, and entirely free from that apple's chief fault, spotting.

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**The Antonovka.**—In the Antonovka (or Antony) apple from Russia, we plainly have a valuable and serviceable fruit, though not so long a keeper as was hoped. This variety is a true ironclad and a free grower in the nursery, forming a neat, upright tree, that in tree-agent language will "deliver well." It is easily transplanted, grows off freely, even in moderately fertile soil, and requires but little pruning; in all these points resembling the popular