

Propagating Grape Cuttings.

I make cuttings in the fall of perfectly ripened wood. Bury them six inches deep in any dry ground. In the spring, after the frost is out, spade a trench or trenches two feet wide, and six inches deep; cover the bottom with any cheap or refuse boards. Set up at each side a six inch board, and spread on the bottom some old hay or straw, half or two-thirds rotten, about one inch thick when packed, and make it very wet.

Fill the box with rich earth. Now, with the hand, open across one end a V shaped trench down to the old straw. Press the cuttings against the side of this trench, about two inches apart, with the upper bud at the surface of the ground. With the hand, take the dirt from the front side of this little trench and press it against the cuttings, leaving a similar trench, which fill with cuttings, and continue until the bed is filled. Then mulch with loose hay or straw two or three inches deep, and with a spout or rose sprinkler make the bed pretty moist.

Now the theory is this: the rotten straw in the bottom retains moisture. The boards prevent the surrounding earth from absorbing that moisture; the mulching prevents the moisture from evaporating, and therefore the cuttings remain moist.

My experience is this—95 per cent. of all my grape cuttings treated as above have grown.

There is another item or two in this process worthy of notice: when the plants are to be lifted for the vinery or for sale, first lift out the side boards, then with a shovel or fork, the plants are taken out with roots entire and uninjured, and also that they may be easily watered, and to some purpose in the dry time.—*Exchange.*

Chinese Primroses.

THE double-flowered varieties of the Chinese Primrose form a group of considerable extent, as well as one of great beauty and interest. The old double rose-coloured and double white varieties of former days, attractive and useful as they were, are far surpassed by more modern productions. The law of progress has worked out the most cheering results: swiftly and certainly have higher forms come forth from the workshop of Nature to gladden the eyes of the patient worker in this direction. A few flowers, that represent the latest form of the fine varieties, produced by Messrs. Windebank & Kingsbury, of Southampton, were exposed at a recent meeting of the Floral Committee, and were especially remarkable as containing some very fine flaked varieties of considerable beauty. Singular to say, these fine double kinds are all raised from the seed obtained from single flowers. The double blooms do not produce seed as a rule; and even if they did yield seed, and it were to germinate, the plants so raised would simply produce single flowers. This is a curious fact, but Messrs. Windebank & Kingsbury, as well as others, have abundantly proved that it is so. Semi-double flowers will produce seed, but it is necessary that they should be fertilised with the pollen from the single blooms. They rarely, however, if ever, produce really double flowers when so fertilised, and the number of semi-double flowers are always in a minority—the remainder, and consequently larger part, proving single.

To obtain double varieties the raiser fertilises certain fine and striking single flowers with the pollen of other equally fine single blooms, and the desired result is obtained. This is Messrs. Windebank & Kingsbury's *modus operandi*, the exact details and mode of accomplishment are a professional secret they keep to themselves. That they have hit upon some method of fertilisation by which the production of double flowers is rendered certain is evident; and further than this, they at the same time secure a strong and vigorous constitution for the double kinds. Probably the act of fertilising, say a fine red flower, with the pollen of another flower of the same hue, equally fine in character, is the most likely cause of the production of double kinds of that same hue of color; and a similar process would be attended with a like result, if this hypothesis be a correct one, in the case of flowers of other hues of color.—*Gardiners' Chronicle.*

A new grape, called the Golden Champion, is attracting much attention in Great Britain. It has been originated at Dalkeith, Scotland. In constitution it is said to be equal to the Black Hambury, and it sets freely under similar treatment; ripens earlier, and will keep in condition when ripe, as long as that favourite variety. The bunches are large and well shouldered; berries larger than any grape known. The flavor is peculiarly rich.

The apple crop in the valley of the Connecticut is now gathering, and proves much larger than anticipated. In Hampshire county the first quality is selling at 50c. a bushel in the orchards. In some of the valley towns the price is from \$2 to \$3 a barrel.

PLUGHING ORCHARDS.—The following experiment by Mr. H. Dayton, of Alden, Erie County, N.Y., is better than a column of theorizing. His orchard of 2½ acres, which had produced very little fruit for a number of years, and most of that wormy, was carefully ploughed less than two inches deep late last fall, and harrowed and cultivated two or three times in the early part of the present season. The result is, he has picked this fall over 450 barrels of fine smooth apples, bringing in about \$1,600. The soil was a sandy gravel, and had been in grass about ten years.

NEW DWARF ARBOR VITAE.—Mr. A. G. Burgess, of East New York, recently favoured us with the sight of a specimen of his new Dwarf Arbor Vitae, which he has named *Commodore Nutt*. It is very dwarf, growing only four to six inches, and is very bushy, branching out close to and even below the ground, rooting at the base of the stems like box. It is perfectly hardy, and so dwarf and compact that it will undoubtedly become one of the most valuable plants for edging, taking the place of box, which is always more or less injured in our climate. We have no doubt it will prove to be a plant greatly wanted. It has only the long linear leaves of the Dwarf Arbor Vitae, more like the *Retinospora*, which gives it the appearance of some species of heath.—*Hovey's Mag. of Hort.*

ROBBING GARDENS.—Not very long ago, the writer was told by an American gentleman, that, residing in the suburbs of a Western city, he had a garden which had cost him years of care and thought, and a great deal of money. The result was a rich reward in choice varieties of fruit and vegetables; but with the growth of the population round him, the robberies of his garden became so frequent as to convert what should have been the harmless and useful pleasure of his old age into a source of the most irritating annoyance. He had therefore to give his wife the option of remaining there where they were and cutting down all the fruit trees, or of selling the place and removing into town. Now against such lawless constraints as that put upon the most innocent, and even useful gratification of taste—upon a man's very mode of life indeed—it would almost seem as if one might justly defend himself, no matter at what risk to the wrong-doers, who, if they do not like the reception prepared for them, can easily and commodiously stay away. So largely injurious is this kind of theft, that we remember Mr. Greely in one of his essays on apple growing, while urging the planting of apple trees, confessed that one great reason of the diminished number of orchards in the New England States, was the frequent and wholesale spoliation which the proprietors had to suffer, so that really an industry of considerable importance was suppressed by sheer dishonesty.—*Montreal Herald.*

TWELVE THOUSAND ACRES OF ROSES.—Mr. Blunt, the British Vice-Consul at Adrianople, in his report to the foreign office this year, gives an account of the rose fields of Adrianople, extending over twelve or fourteen thousand acres, supplying the most important source of wealth in that district. The season for picking the roses is from the latter part of April to the early part of June; and at sunrise the plains look like a vast garden full of life and fragrance, with hundreds of Bulgarian boys and girls gathering the flowers into baskets and sacks, the air impregnated with the delicious scent, and the scene enlivened by songs, dances, and music. It is estimated that the rose districts of Adrianople produced in the season of 1866 about seven hundred thousand miscals of otto of roses (the miscal being one and a half drachm), the price averaging a little more than three shillings sterling per miscal. If the spring is cool, and there are copious falls of dew and occasional showers, the crops prosper, and an abundant yield of oil is secured. The season in 1866 was so favourable that eight oke of petals (less than twenty-three pounds), and in some cases seven oke, yielded a miscal of oil. If the weather is very hot and dry, it takes double that quantity of petals. The culture of the rose does not entail much trouble and expense. The oil is extracted from the petals by the ordinary process of distillation.

Poultry Yard.

Dark Brahmapootras.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In the CANADA FARMER of Nov. 15, I perceive a letter signed H. M. Thomas, in which mention is made of a pair of Brahmapootra fowls, imported by Mrs. Varley, and of which an illustration appeared in your paper, Vol. 5, No. 1. There is also an advertisement from the same person, offering for sale "three pairs dark chickens from the best dark Brahmas imported by Mrs. Varley, Toronto." In reply to both letter and advertisement, I beg to state that the only chickens from those fowls were bred by us, and are in our possession. The history of the pair is simple enough, and is as follows:—

In April last, the hen being engaged in maternal duties, we mated the cock with an inferior hen of the same breed, for exhibition. They were purchased at what we supposed would have been a prohibitory price, and the cock eventually died on Dominion Day. The original hen we still have, and the offspring (which Mr. Thomas vainly imagines he has got for sale) are good representatives of their illustrious parents, some of the cockerels hatched in May weighing over nine pounds, and are magnificently feathered. It will afford us great pleasure to show our fowls to any who are lovers of poultry. We have also a trio from Mr. Boyle, of Wicklow, whose dark Brahmas won eight silver cups, besides many first prizes last year. These, with a cockerel and three pullets, from Mr. Singleton, of Leicestershire, a pair from Mr. Stephens, of Montreal, bred from his Wicklow birds, and a trio of Houdans, are our importations of this year.

In writing this letter, I do not wish by any means to detract from the merit of Mr. Thomas' birds; they may be first-rate, for all I know; but I must correct the statement that they are from "the first dark Brahmas imported by Mrs. Varley," as the only progeny of that pair are still in our own possession.

W. VARLEY,
V. S., 1st class, 13th Hussars.

Nov. 19th, 1868.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We are authorised by Mr. Thomas to state that the advertisement referred to should have read "first prize dark Brahmas imported," &c., instead of "first dark Brahmas imported." The omission of the word was an inadvertence which he did not discover till he saw the advertisement in print.

Barn-Door Fowl.

THE name "barn-door fowl" suggests in itself the mode in which a farmer expects his poultry to pick up a living—literally by eating the grain dropped from the threshing and various other farming operations, and the seeds and insects procured by scratching on the dung-hill, which, besides feeding, causes them to become public benefactors; for the very seeds they eat would, if returned to the land, propagate a rank crop of weeds.

The question now arises, what cross or crosses of pure-bred fowls will produce at once the largest, best-flavored, and healthiest chickens? The one I strongly recommend is that between the Game cock (to be chosen rather for its size and abundant plumage than for its warlike proclivities) and the Gray Dorking hen. It is generally admitted that the Game bird is good for the table; it is also a good sitter and an excellent mother, but it lacks size. This quality the Dorking gives, and the progeny of the two grow to great weight, frequently quite as large as the pure-bred Dorking itself. They lay and sit well, and the mixture of the Game blood gives a better flavor to the chickens. A further cross in the following year will be advantageously made with the Brahma Pootra fowl, and the third year it will be found wise to turn a few young Game cocks into the farm-yard, so that, by continually introducing fresh blood, is avoided that most pernicious habit of breeding in-