

demand no winter protection, other than is natural to themselves. They call for no special treatment at any season of the year, but yield with an unsparing hand an abundance of beautiful wholesome fruit.

The greatest difficulty to be overcome in growing currants of any kind, is the difficulty experienced in getting people to plant them. For once planted it is astonishing how much neglect, and even abuse, they will stand, and yet yield a very fair crop of edible fruit.

Of the red currant the principal varieties now grown are the Versailles and the Cherry. Between these there is very little to choose, both varieties being large in size, quite productive, but somewhat acid even when fully ripe. Fay's new Prolific and Moore's Ruby are among the newer varieties. Both of these were fruited on my grounds last season for the first time. I am, therefore, unable to speak positively of their merits until I have tested them for at least another season. They are both large in size, and it is claimed that they are more productive than the other varieties; and furthermore, it is said of Moore's Ruby that it is not so acid when ripe as the older improved sorts. But notwithstanding the large size and great productiveness of these varieties, no grower should be without a few bushes of the Old Dutch Red for his or her own use, as what it lacks in size, it more than makes up in sweetness and richness of flavor. On this head it, as yet, has no rival.

Among the whites, the White Grape seems to be in greatest request, but although attractive in appearance and highly prized by the thoughtful housewife for converting into jelly, still even when at its best, it is too acid to be as highly prized as it otherwise would be.

Among the blacks, Black English and Black Naples, which very closely resemble each other, have been chiefly

grown by market gardeners, but latterly they have been somewhat superseded by Lee's new Prolific, which, on all points, is considerably more desirable than its predecessors. But even this variety is now likely to be shorn of its strength by the Champion of England, which nurserymen say is far ahead of anything yet produced.

#### CULTIVATION.

The currant, like any other shrub, will respond invariably to good treatment. It succeeds best in a deep rich soil, and when well mulched will yield fruit at least twenty per cent. larger than when not. There is no better manure than wood ashes, although ordinary stable manure answers a very good purpose. One thing in particular has to be carefully watched, and that is for the appearance of the currant worm. If taken in time, and the bushes well sprinkled with hellebore water in the proportion of two table-spoonsful to a pail of water, no evil results will follow; but if neglected, and the bushes are allowed to be stripped by them of their leaves, you may expect nothing but poor and unsatisfactory results. If you are too poor to buy bushes from the nurserymen, go to your neighbors garden in the fall after the first heavy frost, get some cuttings of the present season's growth, merely stick them in the ground where you wish your bush to stand, and in a couple of years you will have fine healthy bushes.

A. A. WRIGHT.

#### BRACEBRIDGE AGRICULTURAL FAIR

We attended the Agricultural Show at Bracebridge; were received very cordially by the Directors and officers of the Society; acted as judge in several departments. The fruits were sparse. Duchess apples were fair samples, some others were rather inferior in quality; there were not many in competition.