

SOME NEW GOOSEBERRIES.



N article in an English paper recently giving almost fabulous reports concerning the productiveness of gooseberries in that far-away island, led me to investigate the merits and success of certain new and large varieties now being tried in this country. That Gooseberry culture has been greatly stimulated and increased either by improved methods of culture, or by better and larger sorts recently brought out, is evinced by a recent order given by one man for 90,000 plants. The English article above referred to stated that 27 tons of fruit had been harvested from 10 acres and the following year 30 tons. But the variety there cultivated is the Industry and it does not generally succeed in this country. It is too productive and lacks vigor.

An amateur has been testing nearly all of the new sorts as they have appeared and finds a ready market for all the fruit he can grow. Downing with him ranks high, but is small to medium in size; 29 points. Smith's Improved, small, quality best, has 30 points in its favor. Keepsake, medium to large, 27 points. Industry, large, is graded at 27 points. Red Jacket very productive, 32 points. Triumph, or Columbus, which is the same, is very large and scores 27 points. In freedom from mildew Downing ranks as best and Red Jacket as second. With me the report would be reversed, for I have not found a trace of mildew since I have had that variety and the Triumph has been equally free though not so vigorous a grower. If these large varieties should prove as productive and healthy as the Houghton a great and valuable addition will have been made to the fruits of the temperate zone and especially to us in America.—Farm and Home.

Elberta in Michigan.—The Elberta was doing finely. It marks an era on peach culture as great as the Concord grape did in grape culture. It is large, handsome and of uniform size and very excellent quality. Planters of peach trees are now growing varieties that will give a succession through the season, whereas they formerly planted all the late varieties. Continued cultivation from early to late has been found the best for peach orchards, beginning with the blooming of the trees. Orchards that were not cultivated until June produce fruit, but its size was not nearly as large as those cultivated early. The fruit is mostly handled by shipping associations and the cost of grading, packing, packages and marketing is 18 1-2 to 20 cents per bushel. One of the most profitable methods in peach culture is proved to be that of thinning the fruit in its early stages. There is much less strain upon the tree, the fruit is more uniform in size, and much larger and finer than where not thinned. Mr. Miller closed with the remark made by an intelligent observer of mankind, that the commercial fruit growers were the most intelligent class of agriculturists. — Country Gentlemen.