

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

just come to hand. It contains an illustrated article on the Gardens of Montreal, another on Our Native Orchids, and other articles. "Chance Cosmopolitan Flowers" is the subject of the opening article by Mrs. Robert Jack, whose contributions are always bright and interesting. From the latter we quote the following regarding the Peony.

"Would an old fashioned garden deserve its name lacking a Peony? How wonderfully that plant has changed, I will not say improved, for that would be to libel the dear old red Peony we all know so well. But the beautiful shades that have been revealed by cultivation are a delight to the æsthetic taste. The name is from "Paion" a Greek name for Apollo, the god of medicine, as the roots were considered to be antispasmodic. The white Peony is a native of Central Asia, and the Mongolians use the root in their soups and grind the seeds to put in tea. There is a true Peony in the same old-fashioned garden. It is expected every spring that it will have succumbed to the severity of the winter, but even last season, so hard on many things, it came out uninjured."

FRUIT IN CALIFORNIA.—A friend of Mr. Nigel Keep, writes him as follows:—The prospects for the entire state of California this year are very poor indeed. In consequence of lack of sufficient rain, and the very heavy late frost, the fruit crop of nearly every county is a failure, from the county of Syskigon to Santiago, a very unusual occurrence. The peach crop is entirely swept away over the whole state; apricots, prunes, pears have shared the same fate. There may be some apples. On our farm the destruction is complete—there is nothing left. Last year we had plenty of strawberries in April, but this year there are

none. They may bloom again and probably we will have berries in May."

DR. BEADLE has sent us an interesting article on "New Creations in Fruits and Flowers," for June No. and one on "A New Profitable Canadian Industry" for July No. It will be remembered that Dr. Beadle was the first editor of this Journal and his writings on horticultural topics are always full of value.

MR. A. E. MICKLE has contributed an interesting article on "Rambles Around Toronto," illustrated, and another on "Thinning Fruits."

PHENOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT NIAGARA FALLS.

DATES OF SAME.

	When First Seen.
Alder <i>Alnus incana</i> shedding pollen	16-4-96
" " " " " "	3-4-97
" " " " " "	16-3-98
Red Maple <i>Acer Rubrum</i> in flower	20-4-96
" " " " " "	8-4-97
Snowdrops in bloom	30-3-96
" " " " " "	7-3-98
MIGRATION OF BIRDS	
Wild Swans	26-3-96
" " " " " "	1-3-98
Wild Geese, first birds	27-3-96
" " " " " "	9-3-98
Wild Ducks, first birds going north	28-3-96
" " " " " "	15-3-97
" " " " " "	6-3-98
Red Winged Black Bird, <i>Agelaius Phœniceus</i> ..	28-3-96
" " " " " " ..	12-3-98
American Robin, <i>Merula Migratorius</i>	23-3-96
" " " " " "	15-3-97
" " " " " "	8-3-98
Song Sparrow, <i>melospiza fasciata</i>	23-3-96
" " " " " "	18-3-97
" " " " " "	1-3-98
The piping of Frogs first heard	20-3-97
" " " " " "	7-3-98

The above will show the difference in the past three springs.

R. CAMERON.

Niagara Falls Park.