

## THE WINTER MEETING.

The winter meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Hamilton, on Wednesday, February 5th, 1879. President Burnet in the chair. After the usual routine business, the President called upon the Secretary to open the discussion upon the first subject, "Quinces, how to cultivate, and can they be grown with profit." The Secretary's views having been already given in the first volume of the HORTICULTURIST, at page 121, our readers will be the gainers if we lay before them Mr. P. E. Bucke's paper on this subject.

## THE QUINCE

is a native of the south of Europe, (*Cydonia Vulgaris*), and takes its name from Cydon, the modern Canea—the capital of Crete—near which place the tree grew in great abundance.

Three kinds are usually cultivated. First, the apple-shaped, known as the Orange Quince. This variety is of a rich golden color, very productive, and ripening in a less favorable climate than the other sorts. Second, the pear-shaped. Leaves long, ovate, downy beneath; fruit rather larger than the Orange, pyriform, or sometimes roundish, with a short neck, ribbed towards the eye, of a pale color, and ripening later. Third, the Portugal Quince. Leaves downy on both sides, but very downy beneath; the fruit of this variety is very large, measuring four inches in length and three to three and a half in diameter, skin thickly covered with a gray wool, beneath which is deep yellow. The flesh of this kind is more tender and juicy, and is better for every purpose than the other sorts. The tree is taller and more vigorous, but not so hardy, neither does it bear so abundantly; it is an exceedingly handsome tree, and is often planted in Europe for its ornamental appearance and the beauty of its flowers and fruit. It might stand our winters on the less exposed places along the banks of Lake Erie at its western end.

The quince propagates readily from cuttings and layers. Cuttings should be made like the rose or the currant, in the autumn, of wood of the same year, with a heel of the previous year's growth; these may be set in the fall, or tied in bundles and buried eighteen inches deep in the soil, or kept in sand in a cool cellar and planted in the spring, and if watered in dry weather they will soon strike root; the best plants are obtained in this way, though not so quickly as by layering. This operation is performed in a similar way to the propagation