

great annoyance. Plants will keep well in sand and moss any reasonable time, and a slight sprinkling may be given if the weather should prove dry and warm. As guards around these tables a neat rustic fence was made of white cedar poles, with necessary gates for exhibitors, &c. This left a space in the center about forty by sixty feet, in which were the two masts or poles that sustained the top of the tent. These masts were covered with bark, so as to give them the appearance of trees, and pots of climbing plants in flower sunk at the base, while their branches extended nearly to the top. At the base of these poles octagon stands were made for the display of pot plants, covered with moss, and when filled with plants, produced a very fine effect. In the centre of the oval was a large bed of *Cannas* and *Celadiums*, and nothing in the whole exhibition was more admired than the splendid foliage of these plants. This bed was raised something like a fort, and surrounded with moss-covered rocks selected from the river bank. Scattered around where a few fine plants, such as the *Sago*, *Palm*, *Century Plant*, *Euphorbia*, &c., the pots and boxes concealed by rocks and moss. The turf was short and of good color, and the whole appearance was that of a fine lawn.

We are glad to learn that the able and courteous Secretary, B. P. Johnson, Esq., had returned from his visit and duties connected with the great International Exhibition in good health and spirits, full of hope and generous feelings both as regards the old world and the new. Although, as under the circumstances was to be expected, the amount of the United States contributions to that magnificent display of the world's art and industry, has been comparatively small, it must be gratifying to her enterprising and intelligent citizens that their importance and particular value have been appreciated in an unmistakable manner. Let us hope, ere another New York State Show occurs, that swords will be transformed into ploughshares! We gladly make room for the following lecture and discussion in connection with the State Fair.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO AGRICULTURE.—The Grain Aphid, Wheat Midge &c..

Dr. Asa Fitch, Entomologist of the State Agricultural Society, opened the discussion by reading the following Essay on the Grain Aphid.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I am requested to preface the discussion, this even-

ing, by presenting to the audience some account of the Grain Aphid—an insect new to us in America, and which during the past and the present year, has been more prominent in the public regard than any other insect.

In the grain fields of Europe this grain aphid has existed from time immemorial. It was scientifically named and described eighty-one years ago, by the distinguished German entomologist, Fabricius, who met with it in fields of oats, and therefore named it the *Aphis Avena*, or the oat aphid, he being unaware that it occurred equally common upon other kinds of grain also.

But our European accounts of it are quite meager and imperfect. About all that we gather from them is, that it is an insect which shows itself upon the grain about the time of harvest, and that in some instances it has been known to be so multiplied, in particular places, as to literally swarm upon and cover the heads of the grain in many of the fields.

These few general facts, are all the information which the world has hitherto had of this insect. What becomes of it during the remainder of the year, where, and in what condition it lurks after harvest time, and until harvest time again approaches, has never been investigated. It was remaining for us in this country to trace out its abiding place and habits during the autumn, winter, and spring, and thus complete its history the year round, as we have been able to do within the past eighteen months—under the instructions of this Society, and under the auspices of the State of New York.

In this country, this grain aphid has never been observed, and it was not known that we had such an insect here, until last year, when it suddenly appeared in excessive numbers over all the New England States, and the State of New York, except here in its western section, and also in the adjoining districts of Canada and of Pennsylvania. Throughout all this vast extent of country every grain field was invaded by it; many of these fields were thronged and a portion of them were literally covered and smothered by this insect.

This year it has moved westward, making its appearance in the same manner all over Western New York, Canada West, Northern Ohio, and at least a portion of Michigan as judge, from the numerous letters which have been sent me with grain-heads containing the insect, and from the notices of it in the public prints—whilst at the East, where it was numerous last year, it has measurably disappeared this year, so that, except in a few localities, it would not have been noticed by not every body been so eagerly searching for it.

But though this insect has only been no-