


## AN INTERESTING HOUSE MEETING.

A MEANS OF DEEPENING THE INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS IN THEIR SOCIETY.

A GOOD WAY TO SPREAD INFORMATION.

N interesting house meeting of the Grimsby Horticultural Society was held on Thursday evening, the 6th of February, at Mr. A. H. Pettit's. In the absence of Mrs. Palmer, the President, and Mr. Burland, the Vice-President, Mr. A. H. Pettit was asked to preside. Two papers were read and discussed, one by Mr. L. Woolverton, on the Garden and Lawn, and one by Mr. J. F. Brennan, on the Cultivation of the Peach Tree.

**The Peach Tree.**—Twelve feet apart was advocated as a proper distance apart for planting peach trees, providing they were properly shortened back. This should be done at any time between the harvesting of the fruit, and the month of April following. There is no reason, said Mr. Brennan, why a tree should have a long useless trunk and bare poles of branches, to a height of ten or fifteen feet from the ground, before you come to the bearing wood. That is just so much waste. From the beginning, prune back your trees so that they must bend low down, and throw out fruit spurs along the whole way. You need not cut them back all at once, if they are now too high, but you can renew a part at a time. The proper thing, however, is never to allow them to mature such bare poles of limbs. Trees so trained will live to a greater age than those which grow as they choose, it keeps up the production of fresh, young, growing cells, and the vigor of the tree is maintained almost indefinitely, instead of dying out in ten or fifteen years. Another advantage of my method is that you can employ women pickers. Now, in peach season, men are

usually scarce, because of the rush of farm work, and, if your trees are high and the fruit so far up that you have to use a twenty or thirty feet ladder to reach them, you must employ men; but if the fruit can be reached either from the ground or from step ladders, women will do the work. And a good feature of this is that they make better fruit pickers than men; they seem to know just when a peach is ready; and they handle it with greater care than men do.

"I have never pruned my peach trees very much after they are four or five years planted," said Mr. E. J. Woolverton, "up to that time I prune carefully in order to produce a well formed tree; after that I let them have their own way, simply cutting out dead or useless wood. I believe however the system of shortening is an excellent one."

Mr. Adolphus Pettit, who grows about the finest peaches about this section said, "I would not plant my trees so close as twelve feet. I do not shorten back my trees, but even if I did, I do not think I could keep them so small as to go in a square twelve feet across. I would plant them eighteen or twenty feet apart."

Mr. J. M. Metcalfe plants his trees about seventeen feet apart each way, and counts that quite close enough.

"I would like to know," said Mr. Rutherford, a gentleman from Hamilton recently engaged in fruit farming at Grimsby, "whether it is possible to renew an old tree and get an entirely new top."

"Yes," said Mr. Adolphus Pettit, "I have had a tree with its limbs broken down with