

OPEN LETTERS.

ever, and Dr. McCallum was elected President. Since then, owing to the energy and earnest work of the president, the society rapidly increased in membership, until to-day it numbers on its roll 146 members, with a splendid Board of Directors, and may now be called one of the most flourishing in Ontario—and the interest in its welfare is increasing.

On a recent Thursday afternoon and evening the first exhibition under the auspices of the society was held in the Town Hall, and so successful was it both in the way of attendance and display, that it had to be continued a second afternoon and evening so as to give all an opportunity of viewing the hundreds of rare and beautiful plants; the splendid collection of fruits, the handsome paintings and the very attractive display of fancy needle work which had been so very carefully and tastefully arranged. The only trouble in connection with the exhibition was the lack of sufficient room in which to display the many plants so generously supplied, and in-

deed many who had been asked to allow their plants on exhibit were not called upon by the collectors for the simple reason that the supply was too great for the room at the disposal of the society. To the ladies who so kindly lent their time and attention to the arranging of plants, as well as to the contributors the thanks of the people are due. We will not attempt a description, sufficient it is to say that every one was more than delighted with the splendid exhibit, and the very pleasing entertainment in the evening.

Each member of the society was to receive a collection of one dozen bulbs, but owing to some delay they did not arrive in time, and in fact have not yet arrived, but when they do they will be promptly distributed among the members.

The society is to be congratulated on this its first public exhibition, and next fall if a suitable place can be secured a much grander display of plants, flowers, fruits, works of art, etc., may be looked for.

* Open Letters. *

Discouraging.

SIR,—As the fruit season is now in full blast, the question rises as to where we had better ship our plums and pears. We receive circulars from many commission men asking for consignments, and ship to them hoping for good returns, but alas,—as an example, we shipped twenty baskets of beautiful Clapp's Favorite in No. 1 condition, and all that we have heard is that they sold at 25 cents a basket, just enough to pay the freight, commission and basket. Plums are no better. On the same day the daily papers quoted pears from 40c. to 60c., and plums 45c. to 70. I think a change in the mode of marketing our fruit is absolutely necessary, and that some men will be honest enough to give us back the cost of picking. A great many of the apples in this district are badly spotted and cracked, especially were spraying was neglected. One quarter of a crop will be all that will be harvested.

R. L. HUGGARD, *Whitby, Ont.*

August, 1897.

Flowers Blooming in the Beaver Valley.

On the 2nd of November we received a box of flowers and fruits from Clarksburg, from our old friend Mr. C. W. Hartman; accompanied by the following lines:

"SIR,—By same mail I am sending you some fruit and flowers gathered out of doors to-day, (Nov. 1st.) The pansies, sweet peas, and verbenas are from the garden of Mr. Jas. Walker, our local florist, the balance are from my own place, and had time permitted I could have collected many more perfect specimens in Clarksburg and Thornbury.

"The HORTICULTURIST has taken considerable interest in the 'Beaver Valley' as a fruit district, and I merely send the samples to show that even at this late date, we have plums, grapes and flowers uninjured by frost, and until lately tomatoes on the vines in my own garden."

✧ Our Fruit Table. ✧

We desire to acknowledge the following fruits:

Oct. 20.—FROM THOMAS BEALL, LINDSAY: seven varieties of apples. No. 1 slightly resembles Snow; No. 2 is probably Gravenstein, but deficient in coloring; No. 3 is Shiawassee Beauty; No. 7 is a seedling from Township of Stanhope of great beauty, and of considerable merit as a cooking apple.

Oct. 20.—FROM A. M. SMITH, ST. CATHARINES, *Smith's October plum*, in good condition;

fruit medium size, roundish, skin thin, dark purple, with greyish bloom; flesh dark yellow, tender, juicy, flavor rich, sweet and very agreeable; Campbell's Early grape in good condition, but inclined to loosen from the stem. Mr. Smith says: "I enclose sample of Campbell's Early grape received about three weeks ago or more from Geo. Gosselyn, of Fredonia. It is going to be valuable. I think he claims it is as early as Moore's Early, a better grower, good foliage, good quality, a good cropper and first-class shipper."