

matter of course the flowers were splendid. The ammonia used is rather expensive, as I bought it from a chemist's shop; this year I intend getting agricultural ammonia, which is much cheaper. I have also tried it on strawberries with the same satisfactory result, the crop being nearly double that of the others. It is very powerful, and requires to be used with caution.

NATIVE AND FOREIGN CHESTNUTS.

Among the later novelties in the way of chestnuts the Japan varieties are well worthy of attention. They are probably of the same origin as the common European chestnut, although some of our botanists claim that they belong to a distinct species, to which the name of *Castanea Japonica* has been given. But whether originally from the same species or not, the Japan varieties, or at least the kinds that have been introduced, appear to be far more hardy and productive than the varieties usually imported from Europe. The trees grow rapidly when worked on stocks of the American chestnut, and usually commence bearing when three or four years old. One of the first varieties introduced produces a large nut of a rather light mahogany colour, with quite distinct dark lines running from base to apex of the nut. The leaves of this kind are also quite distinct, being narrower than the ordinary European chestnut, and of a pale yellowish green, the underside being covered with a whitish pubescence. The quality is also good for so large a nut, but not quite so sweet as the best of our native varieties. Another Japanese chestnut, of which I have seen only a few specimens, has from four to eight nuts in each burr, the more usual number being six. As might be expected with such a number of nuts

crowded into one burr, they are not of a uniform size or shape, and the centre one is often of a triangular form resembling a large beechnut. There are usually three or four large nuts in each burr, and the others smaller and of an irregular shape. The trees of this curious variety are very hardy and wonderfully prolific. Three nuts in a burr appears to be the normal number for the chestnut, but it is not a fixed number either in the cultivated or wild species of this country, at least; for in the Chinquapin (*Castanea pumila*) the nuts are mainly solitary or one in a burr. We really do not know but this is merely a variety that has been produced from the larger or sweet chestnut of our northern forests. The Chinquapin is a smaller tree—in fact in some parts of the South where this species is indigenous, it is sometimes only a small shrub, bearing abundantly when but three or four feet high.—A. S. FULLER, in *American Agriculturist* for February.

PROFITABLE GARDEN CROPS.

Wherever there are manufacturing villages, early cabbages are always in demand, and bring good prices. Spinach is another saleable vegetable. Beets, parsnips, carrots, turnips, onions, etc., as well as spinach, may be sown in rows far enough apart, to be worked by horse implements. The distance between the rows is to be governed by the width of the horse-hoe or cultivator, which should close up as narrow as twenty inches. A market-gardener sows such crops twelve or fifteen inches apart, but the farm-gardener has cheaper land, and can give more space if he can save labor, and substitute horses for hands. Those who propose to undertake farm-gardening, will do well to begin with sweet corn and early potatoes, and not undertake other gar-