

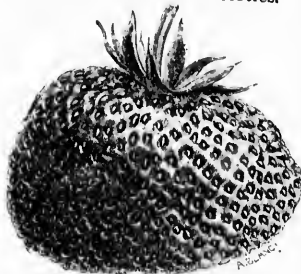
STRAWBERRIES.

(By JOHN CRAIG.)

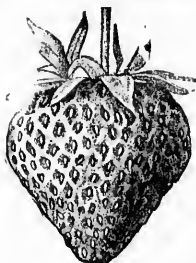
A bulletin (No. 5) was issued on this subject in August, 1889, by Mr. W. W. Hilborn, then Horticulturist of the Central Experimental Farm. This bulletin discussed cultural methods, in addition to giving descriptions of a number of the leading varieties of that time. It is not intended to repeat in the following pages the descriptive notes on varieties already given by Mr. Hilborn, but rather to record experience gained since that time in testing new with old varieties, in addition to giving such collateral data deduced from experiments, bearing upon successful strawberry culture, as have come under our notice.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW VARIETIES.

The ease with which strawberries may be grown from seed, favours the production of new varieties. Each year sees a large crop of seedlings offered with great confidence by strawberry specialists to the public with the assurance that they are possessed of valuable characteristics. The percentage which live through a five years' test is comparatively small and is confined to those having a wide range of adaptability. Many varieties much advertised and widely planted five or six years ago, like *Jessie*, for instance, have since been almost lost sight of, while other kinds, as *Crescent* and *Wilson*, commercial standards at that time, are still found to be more largely cultivated in strawberry growing localities than those of recent production. This is on account of the unstable character of the new kinds. Some are placed upon the market in advance of a thorough test, while others only succeed on certain soils.



Jessie.



Wilson.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD VARIETY.

A variety should not be introduced unless possessing, in a marked degree, a characteristic, or characteristics, which stamps it as superior to varieties already upon the market. Among the desirable qualities to be sought for are, first, quality in fruit; this includes fine flavour, firm texture, attractive colour and desirable form. Second, vigour in the plant; including productiveness, hardiness and freedom from disease. Bright and glossy berries, like *Martha*, *Middlefield*, and *New Dominion*, are usually firmer and bear transportation better than the non glossy kinds with seeds depressed. Some berries will always be prized by the amateur, while they will be found unprofitable in the commercial plantation, and *vice versa*. On the