MITCHELL.—As the result of a visit to this town by our organizer, Mr. Thos. Beall, of Lindsay, during the fall, a meeting was held in the town hall on the 10th inst. for the organization of a horticultural society. A society was duly formed with a membership of fifty-seven to start with. Following are the names of the officers elected:

A. D. Smith, M.D., president; W. Elliot, B.A., first vice-president; Mrs. W. Thomson, second vice-president, and T. H. Race, secretary-treasurer. The society is arranging for a public lecture sometime early in February.

LEAMINGTON.—The Horticultural Society's annual meeting took the form this year of a concert in the town hall last night. The president, Mr. Fraser, ably presided and before eight o'clock, the hour set, the large opera house was crowded to the doors by the most intelligent of our town's people.

Music was a leading featnre of the entertainment and local talent was reinforced by Miss Huff, of Dresden, who kindly assisted. She has a very sweet and powerful soprano voice. She sang "Life's Dream is O'er," in duet with Miss Nuller, taking soprano; Miss Fuller alto. She sang also two fine selections, and another in response to a hearty encore.

Our local prima donnas, Mrs. Manning and Miss Fuller sang beautifully. Mrs. Manning gave the appropriate piece, "Beautiful Flowers," and Miss Fuller rendered in her usual happy manner "The Highland Brigade." Mr. Edelsten, to whose push and enthusiasm the success of the function is largely due, sang with spirit the patriotic song, "Our Flag." Rev. Mr. Keith gave a fine reading. The orchestra, led by Mr. Maxon, ably accompanied by Mrs. Deming, Mr. Thorn and Mr. Ivan Russell, was of great assistance.

Miss Hanna Fuller and Miss Grece Smith also ably assisted in the accompaniments.

There were speeches more or less racy and relevant from Mayor Hughes, Messrs. Fuller, Johnson Hillborn McSween, Dr. Eede, Mr. Straubel, Mr. McKay and Mr. Lewis Wigle.

During the meeting over fifty members were enrolled, and at an after meeting the officers for 1900 were chosen: Hon. Pres., Dr. Hughes, mayor of Leamington; J. D. Fraser, pres.; J. L. Hillborn, 1st vice-pres.; E. E. Adams, 2nd vice-pres.; E. J. M. Edelsten, secretary.

Besides these there were nine directors and two auditors elected.

Our Book Table.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE.—F. H. King, Professor of Agricultural Physics in the University of Wisconsin. 500 pp. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York. Price, $1.50.

We have many books on fertilizing the soil, and a few books on applying water to the soil artificially, but these latter treat the subject from an engineering standpoint rather than the agricultural point of view. It is therefore opportune that a book of this character should be given the public by a writer who has made soil physics a life study. As the author pointedly states: "Most works on irrigation have been written from the legal or sociological standpoint or from that of the engineer rather than from the cultural phases of the subject. The effort is made here to present in a broad yet specific way the fundamental principles which underlie the methods of culture by irrigation and drainage. The aim has been to deal with those relations of water to soils and to plants which must be grasped in order to permit a rational practice of applying, removing or conserving soil moisture in crop production." The author opens with a discussion of the principles underlying the watering of land, which is irrigation, and the withdrawal of water from the land, which is drainage. These are two opposite methods of land culture, both essential, but of special utility, depending upon locality and rainfall. One of the valuable things strongly emphasized in this book is the necessity of securing a desirable physical condition of the soil in order to obtain the largest return from the land. The author has shown that good culture, which means good physical condition, may in large measure replace commercial fertilizers. In other words a good physical condition of the soil is often mistaken for a "worn out" condition. The plant can only get hold of the plant food when the soil is in such condition as to hold a certain amount of moisture, air and humus. When these three agents are present the processes which attend the liberation of plant food are allowed to progress normally. He makes clear the fact that many so-called worn out soils are in reality poorly tilled soils. If no other point than this was brought out the book would have accomplished a worthy mission. In this way it is of special value to the eastern farmer. To the western farmer it is useful from the irrigation standpoint. It is well known that among the most productive lands on the continent are those lying in the arid or semi-arid regions of the west. The questions of how to conduct the water to the desired place and how to distribute it are of great importance. Bound up with these are those of economy as related to water supply and as bearing upon cost of application of water. The book, then, is divided into two parts: first, irrigation; second, drainage. In this way the principles enunciated have a wide range of application. It fills a distinct place among farm books and will undoubtedly be used freely in the college as well as the private library.

This volume makes an important addition to the Rural Science Series being edited by Professor Bailey. It is illustrated with a large number of half tone pictures and a smaller number of line drawings. While the mechanical make up is not quite equal to the preceding numbers of the series, it bears the unmistakable stamp of the Macmillans, which is usually a synonym of good book making.

J. C.