Multiplying Seedlings.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—One sometimes conceives a good idea, but neglecting to put it in practice, so as to communicate it, it is lost. Mine came too late to put in practice this spring, but unwilling that my flower should "blush unseen," I take the first opportunity of giving it to the world.

Everybody conversant with fruit-raising is aware that good fruit trees are raised from seed, in fact that our best varieties originate in no other way; but the proportion of good seedlings is so small, it is so long waiting for them to bear, and the whole expense and trouble of bringing them out so great, that any plan of lessening the expense and time will be considered important.

My plan is this: take cuttings from such seedlings as may be considered worth testing, and graft or bud them upon the previous year's wood, of a healthy grown tree. In this way an immense number of scions could be put on one tree, and nearly every orchard has one or more suitable trees, which do but little in the way of bearing fruit. I am of opinion that the wood of a young plant grafted into a tree of mature growth, would bear as soon as a scion from the old tree. I may be wrong; the thing has not been tried yet; but if it succeeds as well as I expect, what an immense number of apple, pear, and other seedlings can be put on trial at a very small outlay of time or money. I hope some of your readers who have a desire to benefit themselves and the fruit-eating community by developing new fruits, will give my plan a trial, and I would just remind them that the budding season is not very far off, and may be taken advantage of for the purpose.

TENDEAU L'ARRADEE.

Asparagus in France.

THIS is one of the leading vegetables in France. The following, from the London *Journal of Horticulture*, shows how careful they are in selecting seed:

"Every grower raises his own roots by sowing selected seed. The largest and earliest ripened seeds are chosen. A bed of sandy, unmanured soil is lined off, forming little furrows twelve inches apart, and the selected seed finger-and-thumbed-in at least four inches apart. After the rake has been drawn over all, the seed will be two inches from the surface. This operation is done on a dry day in February By the end of March, a hoeing before the seeds germinate tends to keep the seed beds clear of weeds, after which the young plants soon begin to show themselves above ground. The end of April and the beginning of May bring hot, dry weather A slight mulching with decayed manure is now applied. After this nothing more is required but a little hand weeding and repeated waterings in very hot weather throughout the year. At the period when they may be termed yearlings, with half an inch of growth, which will be about the end of March, is the time when the planting in the *Aspergeric* takes place.

How to Make Gravel Walks.

IN the first place remove all the soil and vegetable mould, where the walk is to be made, to the depth of six or more inches, so that there will be nothing to promote the growth of grass roots. If this precaution is not taken, grass roots will soon spread from the sides of the walk, and grass will cover the entire foot path. After the way has been evacuated to the desired depth, let the depression be filled with coarse gravel, if it can be obtained, and the surface covered with clean, small gravel, about one or two inches in depth. Then roll the surface with a heavy roller. If any stray spears of grass should appear in the walk, let them be pulled up at once. A more effectual way, however, is to sprinkle salt over the walk, or apply a weak brine with a watering pot. A weak brine will effectually destroy all vegetation in a walk, at an expense of only a few dimes on the salt.

Another way to form the body of a walk is to fill the evacuation with blacksmith's and iron founder's cinders, or pieces of old brick, old mortar, lime siftings, oyster and clam shells, or anything else of a similar character Then cover the surface with about two inches of sharp, clean gravel, that is free from mould, or anything that will promote the growth of vegetation. If gravel must necessarily be carted a long distance, the surface of rubbish may be covered with only a thin coat of clean gravel. Let it be borne in mind that one barrel of salt sowed over the walk, will save much labor and expense in keeping down weeds and grass. This is a very cheap and satisfactory manner of making a loose or open gravel walk. Where the soil is heavy, and there is only a thin stratum of mould on the surface, resting on a compact subsoil, in which there is little or no vegetable matter, nothing but the thin stratum of mould need be removed where a walk or carriage drive is to be made *N. Y. Times.*

Tree Mignonette.

Sow a pinch of seed in the centre of as many three inch pots as there are plants required. When the young plants are strong enough thin them by degrees to one plant in a pot, and that must be the strongest. Train that up a stake to the height required, pinch out all side shoots and the heads of bloom, but do not divest the stem of its leaves until the plant has attained its full height. To form a head leave about three shoots at the top, and pinch them in from time to time.

I have had tree Mignonette four and five feet high, with heads two feet through, by sowing the seed, as above described, in August, and growing the plants for twelve months, shifting into larger pots when required. These were handsome objects in the conservatory, and afforded many cut flowers all winter. For ordinary sized trees the seed should be sown during the first week in May, to bloom throughout the following winter. Different catalogues announce a giant variety for this purpose, but in growing the two I have found no difference.—THOS. RECORD, *Hawkhurst, in London Journal of Horticulture.*

TRANSPLANTING CABBAGES.—The *Gardener's Monthly* recommends the following mode for enriching the soil for young cabbage plants just before they are set out, for the purpose of giving them an early and vigorous start. Make holes with a dibble where the plants are to be set, and then fill these holes with manure water. It soaks away into the surrounding earth, and becomes perfectly diffused through it. The plants are then set in the holes.

TRANSPLANTING IN THE NIGHT.—A gentleman anxious to ascertain the effect of transplanting at night, instead of in the day, made an experiment with the following result: He transplanted ten cherry trees while in bloom, commencing at four o'clock in the afternoon, and transplanting one each hour, until one in the morning Those transplanted during daylight shed their blossoms, producing little or no fruit; while those planted during the darker portions maintained their condition fully. He did the same with ten dwarf pear trees, after the fruit was one-third grown. Those transplanted during the day shed their fruit; those transplanted during the night perfected their crop, and showed no injury from having been removed. With each of these trees he removed some earth with the roots. The incident is fully vouched for; and, if a few more similar experiments produce the same result, it will be a strong argument to horticulturists, gardeners, and fruit-growers to do such work entirely at night.

THE USE OF FLOWERS.—Says a writer in *Harper's Weekly*:—There has been of late years a marked increase in the use of flowers for social purposes. Every dinner party or dancing party must now be graced with these "stars of the earth." At larger assemblies there is always a lavish display of flowers, as if it were designed to intoxicate the guests with the delicious odors of innumerable blossoms. If we visit a lady, flowers must precede our coming, if we drive out with her, the odor of flowers must sweeten the pleasure. Superb presentation baskets and bouquets are now seen in almost every parlor, and are the horticultural compliments of gentlemen to ladies. The favorite flowers are the camellia japonica, the sweet Neapolitan violet, and the white and tea rose. Although a large capital is employed in producing these, the supply is always unequal to the demand, and they bring high, even extravagant prices, on great occasions. Flowers are of course extensively used at weddings, but according to the florists, they are employed more liberally at funerals. Five hundred dollars are not unfrequently expended in crosses and wreaths for these solemn occasions.

Agricultural Intelligence.

An Agricultural Degree.

WE are glad to learn from our British Exchanges that the University of Edinburgh intends to confer the Degrees of Bachelor and Master of Agriculture ("Agr. B." and Agr. M.) on all who may be found worthy of such distinctions. Before any candidate can graduate in agriculture, he must satisfy the examiners as to his general attainments by undergoing a preparatory examination, unless that be rendered needless by the posession of certain specified certificates of qualification. The following is the published programme:

"The candidate who has passed successfully this examination may present himself at the next examination for his degree of Bachelor of Agriculture. For this examination the candidate must produce certificates of acquaintance with practical agriculture, and is required, with the view of specializing his studies, to profess *one*, and not more than one, of the following groups of subjects, with their practical relations to agriculture:—A. Natural Sciences—Botany, Geology and Zoology; B. Experimental Science—Chemistry and Physics; C. Mechanical Science—Mechanics and Engineering. The certificates of the Royal Agricultural Society, the Highland Society, and the Royal Agricultural College will be accepted for practical agriculture.

"Successful candidates who have thus acquired the Degree of Agr. B. may at the next period of examination, provided they have attained the age of 21, proceed to the examination for the Degree of Master of Agriculture (Agr. M.). For this Degree the candidate will be required to submit to a searching examination on *one* of the following subjects, in its special relation to agriculture: A. Agricultural Chemistry—organic and inorganic; B. Agricultural Mechanics—Machinery and Implements; C. Engineering (Civil) Surveying and Draining, &c., D. Natural History—Botany, Geology, &c.; E. Animal Physiology—breeding, rearing, &c., of animals. The examinations for Degrees will be conducted by University examiners, and an examiner appointed by the Highland Society."

Agricultural Societies & Officers for 1868.

WE publish in the present issue, as we did in the corresponding issue of last year, a list of the Agricultural Societies and officers for the current year, so far as returns have been made. Omissions, where they occur, must be attributed to the fact of no return having been sent in. Where blanks appear under the column headed Treasurers, it is to be understood that the office is held in connection with the Secretaryship. As soon as the new law comes fully into operation, it is expected that a more regular system will be adopted, and one which will enable us to give a still more complete and an earlier list.

☞ The canker worms have begun their depredations in the neighbourhood of Newton and Auburndale, Mass., and the foliage of the trees is rapidly changing to a rusty red.

☞ A new variety of corn, the result of selecting seed and of high culture, has originated in Minnesota. The yield last year was as high as one hundred and thirty-seven bushels to the acre.

FALL EXHIBITION.—The annual Exhibition of the South Simcoe Electoral Division Agricultural Society will be held at Bradford on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 1st and 2nd.

ARMY WORM.—The Corinth, Miss., *Model Farmer* for May, says the army worm is on the march there inflamazing force. The *Farmer* makes the following astounding statement: "The movements and numbers of this insect are astounding. The army worm has appeared in this country near the State line, and is now moving southward. Their breadth is about two miles, and they are stripping the forest of all foliage in their path. There are so many millions, that last week they actually stopped the freight train on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The worms were so thick on the track that they accumulated on the wheels until it caused the drivers to slide on the rails. We don't think this is the regular army worm, but a species of insect smaller, and not so destructive to vegetation."