

sent it as an Earthly Paradise from which disappointment, loss, and suffering are excluded. Failures have arisen, and will arise, for men bring upon themselves here, as elsewhere, the results of their own imprudence and lack of perseverance, but these constitute an excessively small proportion of the cases existing in Canada, and they are quite exceptional in their character."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SANITARY AND RURAL IMPROVEMENT.

This Society has for its object the establishment of local societies for the purpose of effecting both sanitary and rural improvements, and the issuing of publications on these subjects as well as the holding of annual conventions for discussion and conference.

The Secretary is very desirous of obtaining the address of any such societies existing in Canada, or of any persons who are interested in forming such organizations. If any of our readers can give the desired information they will please address Mr. Chas. M. Wingate, Secretary, 119 Pearl Street, New York.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

The Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario have issued a circular, setting forth that they have decided to inaugurate a scheme of annual examinations in subjects bearing directly upon the work of the farm, somewhat similar to those in vogue in England and Scotland, accompanied with the granting of certificates of merit. Only second and third class certificates will be issued at the first examination, for which the required courses of reading are indicated in the circular. Money prizes will also be given to the three candidates for second class certificates obtaining the greatest

number of marks of \$25, \$20, and \$15 respectively; the same to those who have never attended any agricultural school in Canada or elsewhere; and to the four candidates for third class certificates who have not attended any agricultural school, \$30, \$25, \$20, and \$15 respectively. The examinations will be held in connection with the High School intermediate examinations of next July, and candidates are required to send in their names and desired place of examination, stating whether they have attended any agricultural school, to Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary, Agricultural Hall, Toronto, before April 1st, 1884, of whom copies of the circular containing full information can be had on application.

PLUMS, RASPBERRIES, GRAPES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

MR. EDITOR,—I have seven trees of the Fellenburg plum, from two to five years old. To the present none of them have shown any of the black knot, while some 40 other plum trees of several varieties have all been badly affected by it, more or less, for the last five years. If such is the case with others who have the same kind, I have no doubt but that quite a number of our members would like to know it.

Fruited two bushes of Shaffer's Colossal raspberry; have taken off berries one inch in diameter; average size $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. It is also a heavy bearer.

I have pruned about 50 grape vines of several kinds, some of which show most of this year's growth of wood to be dead; others not quite so bad, but all more or less so. What is the cause?

Did not ripen any grapes this year, even the Champion did not get a chance to ripen through our early frosts.

Have a tree of the American chesnut, planted about eight years ago. Our