

flowers, but not what might have been expected from a city of the dimensions of Toronto, with its wealth and luxury. A fine Palm, raised on a platform, spread its branches over a considerable portion of the centre of the pavilion. The conservatory portion of the building was empty, if we may except a few miserable looking plants in pots, placed around to hide the nakedness of the place.

The exhibit of fruit would not have been worthy of a township exhibition, and this in the height of the fruit season; just a few small plates containing fairly good specimens of the different varieties, sufficient in number to rake in the prizes.

At the meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Ass'n., recently held in Collingwood, great stress was laid upon the fact that the show of fruit, at the Inter-colonial Exhibition, was so grand that the people of the old country could scarcely believe Canada was able to produce such fruits. If any travellers passing through Toronto witnessed the meagre display made by the Horticultural society, they would certainly not receive a very favorable impression.

The Horticultural Society sadly wants waking up. New blood will have to be infused into it. There is too much "old fogysm" connected with it.

Scientific.

A LEAF MINER AT THE BEET LEAVES.

J. Pettit, Entomologist, says he has found a leaf miner at work in a garden near Grimsby upon the beet leaves. Noticing the peculiar blotched appearance of the leaves he had observed them carefully, and discovered a small fly near the edge of one. Having captured the fly with the leaf, he observed that the fly had just deposited a couple

of minute eggs, more of which were found upon further investigation. In process of time the larvæ of these flies issued from the eggs and entering the parenchyma, or substance of the leaf between the upper and under skin, began mining away good sized patches of it.

One peculiarity was that instead of each larva making for himself a new path, all would enter by the opening made by the leader, and then they would diverge.

Mr. Pettit says he further observed that a beetle of the genus Carabidae, a Bembidium, preyed upon the larva of this fly, and may perhaps so keep it in check as to prevent any great damage.

According to Mr. D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines, the English Sparrow has also been seen pecking out the larvæ of this leaf miner from the beet leaves.

Open Letters.

FALL vs. SPRING PLANTING.

SIR: Now that the nursery agent is about, pressing for fall orders, a few remarks on the purchase of fruit trees in the fall might not be out of season. Many reliable nurserymen, with apparent sincerity, strongly recommend the purchase of fruit trees in the fall in preference to the spring time. My experience has led me to advocate the very opposite practice. For example, during the past five or six years I have planted on my half acre lot twenty-six pear trees. Out of the lot I have but two fall purchased trees growing, and have only lost one or two that were purchased in the spring. The fall stock was "heeled in" up to the branches, and allowed to remain till the spring was well opened. They were then taken out, flushed with sap, with buds full of bursting, and planted. In a few days the buds had opened, and, to all